

Iraq challenges Iran to begin attack

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has challenged Iran to launch its long-awaited offensive against his country, saying such a move would result in catastrophe for Tehran, Baghdad newspapers reported Friday. "We challenge them (the Iranians) to attack Iraq... if they do, they will be taught lessons they deserve. They will see what catastrophe shall befall them," he told a group of Egyptians in Baghdad Thursday night. He also said Iraq appreciates the Jordanian decision last week to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt. Iran launched an offensive along the southern sector of the Gulf war front in February and was later reported to have massed several hundred thousand troops in the area for another major strike, which has not yet materialised (See page 2). President Hussein also said Iraq highly appreciated the role of Egyptian volunteers in the country's 650,000-strong para-military Popular Army.

Jordan Times

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Parliament called to session

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Thursday calling parliament for convening in an ordinary session on Monday Oct. 1 after a four-month summer recess. His Majesty King Hussein is expected to address the opening session.

SLA men come under attack

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Militiamen of the pro-Israeli "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) came under machine-gun and grenade attack in the southern port of Sidon Thursday, security sources said. Israeli and SLA soldiers later sealed off and searched the area. It was not clear if the attack had resulted in casualties, the sources said.

Gunboat sinks dinghy near Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — An unidentified gunboat fired on fishing boats off the coast of West Beirut Friday, sinking an inflatable dinghy, security sources said. Lebanese army troops on the seafloor returned machine-gun fire, the sources said. The number of people aboard the dinghy was not yet known, but there were no casualties in the fighting, the sources said.

Iraq regrets Britons' death

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has expressed regret at the deaths of three British divers killed in a shipwreck off the coast of Lebanon, British diplomats said. They said Mr. Aziz told British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe at a meeting here Thursday that although he regretted the loss of life, the Gulf was a war zone.

U.S. curbs aircraft sales to Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration announced Thursday on sales of aircraft, aircraft parts and large outboard boat motors to Iran because of what it called that country's support for international terrorism. State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said the new policy was not in response to the suicide bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut last week.

U.S. mission in Lima attacked

LIMA (R) — Gunmen sprayed the United States embassy in Lima with automatic weapons fire Friday, shattering windows but injuring no one, a U.S. spokesman said. He said Peruvian guards shot back at the three gunmen, who fired at the building from a nearby park. They fled in a waiting car.

France ends Red Sea minehunt operations

PARIS (R) — France has ended minesweeping operations investigating mysterious explosions reported in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez, the Defence Ministry said Friday.

Baz leaves after delivering message; Sharaf reiterates rejection of Camp David treaty

AMMAN (J.T.) — Osama Al Baz, senior adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, left Amman Friday after a one-day visit during which he delivered a message from Mr. Mubarak to His Majesty King Hussein.

In his message, Mr. Mubarak said he "greatly valued the courageous step" taken by Jordan to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt after a break of over five years, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Baz's visit was the first by a senior Egyptian official to Jordan after the Kingdom announced last Tuesday that it has decided to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt, which was ostracised by most of the Arab countries in the wake of the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

In an interview with Jordan Television on Thursday, Dr. Baz said his visit to Jordan was primarily aimed at delivering Mr. Mubarak's message to the King. The message, he said, expressed the Egyptian president's expression of "solidarity and friendship and brotherhood between Jordan and Egypt."

Dr. Baz said he was very much honoured to have met with King Hussein and pleased that the audience also provided a chance to continue Jordanian-Egyptian consultations on various issues. Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat also received and held talks with the Egyptian official on Thursday. Dr. Baz told JTV: "During the

Baz, head of the Jordanian mission in Cairo, hoisted the Kingdom's flag in the Egyptian capital on Thursday.

"It is a great day and an honour for me to hoist the Egyptian flag in Amman, and I hope the flag will be hoisted in other Arab countries too," Mr. Wahbe told reporters in Amman, referring to the other Arab states which severed diplomatic relations with Egypt in 1979.

Mr. Wahbe praised the "courageous step" taken by Jordan and expressed hope that the Jordanian move will consolidate "Arab solidarity, unity and joint action."

Large crowds were in attendance at both the Cairo and Amman ceremonies, chanting slogans praising His Majesty King Hussein.

Jordan's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt made the Kingdom the first Arab country to restore the relations, which were severed after Cairo signed its separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Most of the Arab states, in line with an Arab summit resolution, severed diplomatic relations with Egypt following the U.S.-sponsored Camp David agreement signed by then Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and former Israeli Premier Menachem Begin.

On Thursday, Jordan reiterated its rejection of the Camp David agreement and effectively squashed any speculation that the Kingdom will pursue any peace settlement along the lines of the 1979 treaty or any solution that

will not guarantee the right of the Palestinians to their homeland and self-determination.

"Jordan continues to reject the agreement and all other partial settlements (to the Palestinian problem) as they do not form a basis for a comprehensive settlement based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242," Information Minister Sharaf said in an interview with Radio Jordan.

"The Camp David agreement did not tackle the Palestine problem and did not have any provisions for the Palestinian people's self-determination on their soil," the minister said in the interview.

"The Camp David agreement was unilateral and did not achieve the aspired comprehensive settlement, and therefore Jordan cannot accept this kind of policy of dealing with individual Arab states each separately, nor will it condone any action by any individual country on behalf of the legitimate owners of the Palestinian land, and above all Jordan refuses to accept the principle of force, expansionism and occupation," Mrs. Sharaf said. Such policies, she added, cannot achieve peace but would eventually lead to further extremism and more wars.

With reference to Jordan's decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt, Mrs. Sharaf said that it was a step in response to Egypt's positive stand under President Mubarak and Egyptian policies in support of the Arab Nation and its interaction with the nation's issues.

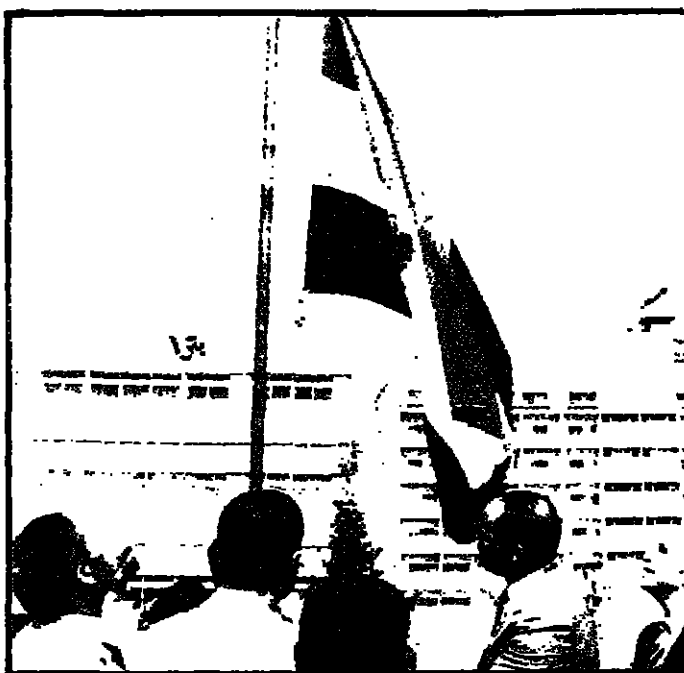
"Egypt has displayed its stand

clearly in its strong opposition of Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, its firm stand on the side of Iraq in defence of its territory and in its strong opposition of Israel's establishment of colonies on Arab Land," the minister said.

She said that Jordan's decision came to enhance Egypt's national role and to help end the siege of isolation which Israel has imposed on Egypt. The decision will also help to "further strengthen Arab solidarity which is the basic foundation in Jordan's policies," Mrs. Sharaf added.

The minister reiterated Jordan's firm commitment to its own call for the convening of an international conference to settle the Palestine problem and end the Middle East crisis with the participation of all concerned parties as well as the two superpowers "which would help implement Resolution 242 and reestablish the Palestinian peoples' rights."

Jordan's restoration of diplomatic ties with Egypt, the minister said, is bound to help efforts being made to hold such an international conference. "The resumption of normal relations with Egypt will by no means affect the current Jordanian-Palestinian talks," the minister added. "On the contrary, the minister added, these ties will offer a new positive element for the talks and will enhance joint steps taken to reach a formula on future relations that would support the population of the occupied Arab territories and reestablish their rights in their homeland."



The Egyptian national flag is hoisted at the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Amman on Friday, marking the resumption of Jordanian-Egyptian diplomatic relations after a break of five years (Petra photo)

Arafat heads for Kuwait after talks

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat left for Kuwait after a surprise three-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived here unexpectedly on Wednesday — less than 24 hours after Jordan announced its decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt after a break of five years — maintained complete silence over the Jordanian move.

During his stay in Amman, the PLO leader had a working dinner with King Hussein on Wednesday and held two rounds of talks with Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat on Thursday and Friday. Senior PLO officials were present during the dinner on Wednesday, but did not attend any of the Obaidat-Arafat talks.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Wednesday that the talks between the PLO leader and King Hussein centred on "the latest developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian arena."

and efforts to convene the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

However, PLO officials said the resumption of Jordanian-Egyptian diplomatic relations figured high in the talks, but refused to elaborate. "Our top priority now is not to make any move or statement that might impede efforts to convene the PNC," the officials said.

But judging from the strong reaction the Jordanian move drew from Syria-based PLO factions, some of which have accused Mr. Arafat of being "behind the Jordanian decision," Mr. Arafat's sudden arrival in Amman seemed to incite his hardline rivals' opposition to his leadership of the PLO.

Ever since Mr. Arafat made a controversial visit to Egypt last December and met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, hardline factions in the PLO have been accusing him of abandoning the armed struggle against Israel and demanding his ouster from the leadership of the PLO.

The uproar that followed Mr. (Continued on page 3)

Murphy briefs Lebanese leaders

BEIRUT (R) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived in Beirut Friday and briefed President Amin Gemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karami on his efforts to mediate an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Mr. Karami indicated afterward that progress had been made toward a withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, but he said further mediation efforts were needed.

Mr. Murphy arrived from his second visit to Damascus in a week. He met Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Thursday after high-level talks in Israel, Egypt and Jordan.

Mr. Karami leaves Saturday to address the U.N. General Assembly and is expected upon a speedy Israeli withdrawal. The minister of state for South Lebanon, Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri, is expected to join him.

Radio stations quoted Mr. Karami as saying the "atmosphere has changed" on a possible withdrawal agreement. "There are indications of a possible arrangement to ensure Lebanon's sovereignty and the evacuation (of foreign forces)," he said.

Shi'ite fear bloodshed in South Lebanon if Israelis block feast, page 2

Jordan's move towards Egypt draws mixed Arab reaction

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt continued to draw a varied Arab reaction Friday as certain countries praised the move as a step in the right direction while others criticised it as a violation of Arab League resolutions.

In Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said His Majesty King Hussein showed courage in deciding to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt. "It was a courageous step by King Hussein on the right path of Arab detente and the need to intensify Arab efforts to solve the Palestinian problem," President Mubarak said.

Commenting on hostile reactions by Syria and Libya to the Jordanian move, President Mubarak said "it is regrettable that Libya is abusive and very strange, also, that Syria is the same." He said there had been too much inter-Arab abuse and added: "We should transcend all this and unify our ranks in view of the tattered Arab situation."

Asked if he would visit Jordan, Mr. Mubarak answered "why not?" but added that he could not say whether he might come here soon.

An earlier statement by President Mubarak's office called Jordan's move "an important step on the road to consolidation of Arab solidarity" in the face of

"grave challenges" facing the Arab World.

In an apparent reference to Syrian and Libyan critics, the presidential statement urged the Arabs to "abandon manoeuvres and sloganeering which do not measure up to the size of the responsibility which we all share."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Ismat Abdul Maguid, who met U.S. President Ronald Reagan Thursday, said later that President Reagan was delighted by Jordan's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt after a five-year estrangement.

Mr. Abdul Maguid said Jordan's move "is a helpful step towards moving the peace process" but would not predict if Jordan would reconsider its position on various efforts to solve the Palestinian problem. The Egyptian foreign minister said Egyptian leaders "are hopeful that the new government of Israel will move towards peace."

However, Information Minister Laila Sharaf said Thursday that Jordan still rejects the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel despite its resumption of diplomatic relations with Cairo. (See story above).

In the first comment by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on the Jordanian move, official sources quoted by agencies reiterated that while Saudi Arabia wanted to see Egypt "return to the

Arab fold," "if an Arab state wishes to make a decision or an adjustment to serve the public interest... it has to go back and consult with its sisters in an Arab summit it should call for."

Saudi officials added that "it should not be interpreted as diminishing the kingdom's insistence on Egypt's return to the Arab fold." The UAE issued a similar statement.

In Rabat, Moroccan daily l'Opinion, Thursday welcomed the resumption of Jordanian-Egyptian diplomatic relations saying it will strengthen Cairo's hand vis-a-vis Israel and the United States.

Syria and Libya, on their part, sharply condemned Jordan's restoration of diplomatic relations with Cairo describing it as a violation of Arab summit resolutions.

Elsewhere in the Arab World, official spokesmen in Kuwait and Qatar declined comment on the announcement made on the eve of the Muslim New Year when government offices were closed.

The Sultanate of Oman, which maintained diplomatic relations with Egypt, applauded the Jordanian decision.

An Algerian Foreign Ministry statement Thursday said Arab countries should meet to examine the implications of Jordan's decision to reestablish relations with Egypt.

(Continued on page 3)

Masri, U.N. chief review Mideast

NEW YORK (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Friday met U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and discussed with him the U.N.'s efforts for peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Masri emphasised the importance of the U.N. secretary-general's moves within the framework of his capacity as the mediator accepted by all parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Masri and Mr. Perez de Cuellar also discussed prospects for convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved and the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees was also discussed during Mr. Masri's meeting with the U.N. official.

Mr. Masri, who is leading the Jordanian delegations to the current session of the U.N. General Assembly, also held meetings with his counterparts from Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunisia, Turkey, Italy, Denmark, Thailand and Malta and reviewed with them the latest developments in the Middle East as well as bilateral relations.

Iraq signs Yanbu pipeline contracts

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Thursday signed a contract with a Franco-Italian consortium to build pipelines linking its oilfields with the Saudi Arabian port of Yanbu on the Red Sea, oil ministry sources said.

They said the two links are the first phase of a project to establish an export route via a new oil terminal at Yanbu, to boost Iraqi oil exports hit by the four-year-old war with Iran.

The \$508 million contract, signed by Oil Minister Qassem Ahmad Taqi, went to Italy's Saipem SPA, Spain's Progetti and Sidereport SPA, and France's Spie Capac, the sources said.

Consultant on the project is Brown and Root of the U.S. One 640 kilometres pipeline from Faw in southeast Iraq will connect up with an existing Saudi pipeline to move 500,000 barrels

a day (b/d) of Iraqi crude through the existing Saudi export terminal at Yanbu.

The second 960 kilometre pipeline will go direct from Faw to Yanbu, the first of two lines to move another 1.1 million b/d to a new terminal there.

Work on the two pipelines is scheduled to start on Oct. 1 and be completed in 11 months, while construction of the second Faw-Yanbu link will begin in a few months, the sources said.

Iraq's only major outlet at present is a one million b/d pipeline across Turkey to the Mediterranean.

The war with Iran shut its Gulf terminals while Syria, which supports Iran, has closed a pipeline across its territory to Iraqi crude. Before the war Iraq's exports reached a peak of over 3.5 million b/d.

Baghdad is also planning to build another pipeline to the Jordanian port of Aqaba at the head of the Red Sea, from which it already ships some oil products transported from Iraq by road in tankers.

But, fearing the 880 kilometres pipeline, which will cost \$970 million, may be vulnerable to Israeli attack, it is seeking "protection guarantees" from the proposed builder — Bechtel Corporation of the U.S.

Iraq hopes involvement of an American firm in the project will prompt Washington to tell Israel not to attack the line.

Mr. Taqi said last week that the links with Yanbu and Aqaba and further expansion of the pipeline through Turkey would boost Iraq's total oil export capacity to around four million b/d.

Egypt blasts Israel, urges meeting on occupied lands

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Egypt said Friday violations of humanitarian international law in the Israeli-occupied territories had reached "appalling dimensions" and called for a conference of all signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In an address to the General Assembly, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid said: "Such a conference should envisage measures conducive to ensuring respect for the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention," dealing with the protection of civilians in time of war.

He told the U.N. body: "The violations against the provisions of humanitarian international law inside the occupied Arab ter-

ritories have assumed appalling dimensions as manifested in the perpetuation and consolidation of settlement policies in those territories, climaxing into terrorist, oppressive and punitive measures perpetrated against the Arab population in those territories."

He said these policies and practices were serious violations of the 1949 convention, to which almost all states, including Israel, had acceded.

Mr. Abdul Meguid expressed appreciation for the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in trying to ensure security for the Arab population in the territories.

The Israeli delegation was absent from the U.N. assembly Thursday and Friday.

Pakistan says 32 killed in Afghan air attack

ISLAMABAD (R) — An Afghan aircraft bombed a Pakistani border village, killing 32 people, Pakistan government officials said Friday.

The officials initially said at least 80 people were killed and about 40 injured Thursday night when an explosion ripped through Tri Bazzar in Kurram Administrative Agency about eight kilometres from the Afghan border.

But later they said it was a bombing raid by an Afghan aircraft

that caused a total of 80 casualties, including 32 dead.

The official AFP news agency said a large number of shops and a health centre were badly damaged and more than 50 cattle were also killed.

Tri Bazzar is a market place beside the village of Trimangal, which is about 20 kilometres from the region's main town of Parachinar.

Officials in Parachinar, contacted by telephone said the Afghan plane dropped two bombs.

INSIDE

- Israel violating international law, Lawzi says, page 2
- UAAE conference issues recommendations, page 3
- There is more to fundamentalism, by Musa Keilani, page 4
- Marwan Muasher comments on cross-religion marriages, page 5
- Olympic machine gets rolling in Seoul, page 6
- U.S. banks cut prime rate, page 7
- IAEA asks S.Africa to open nuclear plants, page 8

Israel violating international law, U.N. resolutions, Lawzi says

GENEVA (Petra) — Speaker of Jordan's Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi said the Palestine question is the core of the conflict in the Middle East and stressed that Israel is going ahead with its "aggression against the Palestinian people, paying no attention to the international law, the United Nations resolutions, and human rights charter."

Mr. Lawzi, who was speaking at the 72nd session of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) Thursday, currently held in Geneva, added that Israel does not abide by the U.N. Security Council and the IPU resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from the 1967 occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

"Israel is still occupying South Lebanon and is going ahead with tearing off the unity of the Lebanese people, land and sovereignty, and committing crimes, which the modern history has

never witnessed," Mr. Lawzi said. He reiterated that Jordan as well as the Palestinians and all Arabs "believe in peace and work seriously on achieving it, while Israel rejects any serious endeavours for achieving peace and insists on usurping Palestine and does not recognise the Palestinians' national right, particularly their rights in self-determination on the Palestinian national soil."

"Israel rejects finding a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question within the fra-



Ahmad Al Lawzi

mework of the United Nations and does not accept the principle of involving the Palestinian people represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The solution," Mr. Lawzi said. He went on to say: "Israel is

trying to gain time and to press ahead with its aggression, expansion and settlement policy and rejects the U.N. Resolution 242. Mr. Lawzi denounced the United States' stand in support of Israel, saying that it has relinquished its humanitarian task as a super power to establish peace in the Middle East area.

Speaking about the Iran-Iraq war, Mr. Lawzi said it poses another threat to the Middle East area and to the world in general.

He said Iran is continuing its aggression against Iraq and is rejecting all efforts exerted by the international and regional organisations to put an end to the five-year-old war.

Mr. Lawzi called on the IPU to adopt a firm stand towards ending the conflict fairly and called for maintaining rights of the two countries and ensuring that both countries will not interfere in the each other's internal affairs.

Israeli experts complete assignment in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Israeli experts whose presence in Sri Lanka to train security personnel caused a storm have completed their assignment and left the island, a Defence Ministry official said Friday.

The official said there were only two Israeli experts in Sri Lanka at any one time. They had conducted classes for officers of the Police Criminal Investigation Department on ways of gathering intelligence on guerrilla activities.

He denied unofficial estimates that between five to 50 officers from the Israeli Secret Service, Mossad, had been in Sri Lanka.

The official told Reuters that the head of the Israeli interests section at the United States embassy in Colombo had also left with his bodyguard and his replacement had not yet arrived.

"There are no Israelis in Sri Lanka today except, perhaps, tourists," he said.

Sri Lanka broke off diplomatic relations with Israel in 1970 and the setting up of an Israeli interests section in Colombo in June drew protests from Muslims on the island and caused displeasure among Arab countries.

The official said the Israelis had not taken part in any combat operations with the security forces against guerrillas fighting for a separate minority Tamil state in northern areas of the island.

He said a group of former officers of the crack British commando unit, the Special Air Service (SAS), was training a police commando unit at an institution close to Colombo but they were not taking part in operations.

He said that despite strained relations between Colombo and New Delhi over the island's ethnic issue, members of Sri Lanka's security forces were being trained in India.

Chad pullout proceeding normally, Paris says

PARIS (R) — France believes the Libyan troop withdrawal from Chad to be on schedule despite the absence of observers to monitor progress, an official said Friday.

"We currently have no reason to believe the process is not underway on the Libyan side," a spokesman for the External Relations Ministry said, adding that Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Tureiki Thursday confirmed that their pull-out had begun.

Defence Ministry officials denied reports from N'Djamena that France had halted its pull-out of 3,200 troops pending confirmation of the Libyan withdrawal from north Chad.

"Militaryly the disengagement process is continuous but not necessarily regular," a ministry spokesman said. "There has been no pause in the withdrawal."

Western diplomats in Paris said Friday that observers from Benin, Senegal, France and Libya remained in Kano, Nigeria, awaiting visas to enter Chad.

Officials in the Chadian capital have expressed dismay over the choice of Benin, a Marxist country with ties to Libya, as one of the observers for the pull-out.

In another development, Chad's government said a 10-year drought threatened the livelihood of a third of its five million people and called for international aid to combat famine which it said had killed 1,100 people, mainly children, in the past four months.

Chadian Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila said Thursday night in N'Djamena after a cabinet meeting that the southern part of the country was the worst hit, with 600 deaths reported.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Morocco, Libya abolish visas

FEZ, Morocco (AP) — Morocco and Libya signed an agreement Wednesday doing away with visas for travel between the two nations. Meftah Kouba, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice, who signed the accord for Libya, noted what he said was "the capital importance of this accord in the construction of a basis for the Arab-African union linking Morocco and Libya." The visa accord, which takes effect in two weeks, will permit citizens of either country to enter the other's territory for work or tourism without a visa. However, an "official document" will be required. It was not immediately clear what type of document this might be. Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri signed the accord for Morocco.

Austrian minister in Saudi Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Trade Minister Norbert Steiner arrived in Doha, Saudi Arabia Thursday night on a four-day visit to the kingdom for talks on mutual cooperation, the official Saudi Press Agency said Friday.

Iran says U.S. ban has no effect

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — The vice-president of Iran's parliament said Friday that new U.S. export restrictions on aircraft, aircraft parts or outboard motors to his country will have "absolutely no effect," on its war with Iraq. Mohammad Yazdi told a Geneva news conference that though the United States remained an "enemy" of Iran, no U.S. decision had ever had any practical effect on Iranian policy, including its four-year-old war with neighbouring Iraq. The U.S. State Department announced Thursday it was tightening "anti-terrorism" export controls applied to Iran earlier this year. The expanded controls, effective Friday, ban American companies from exporting any aircraft, aircraft parts or outboard motors above 45 horsepower to Iran.

U.N. agency to open Algiers bureau

PARIS (R) — The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees will open a permanent bureau in Algiers to help in the relief of Saharan refugees in the country, the Algerian News Agency monitored here said Thursday. An accord to this effect was signed in Algiers Thursday by Maxime L. Zollner, director of aid programmes at the UNHCR, and Bachir Ould Rouis, Algerian ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, the agency said. APS quoted Mr. Zollner as saying the UNHCR had donated \$1.6 million in aid for refugees in Algeria in 1980 and this had risen to \$3.9 million today including \$3.6 million for Saharan refugees.



Black smoke billowing from burning car tyres as a sign of protest by Shi'ite Muslim residents of the South Lebanese village of Hurj Rahal against the Israeli occupation and mistreatment of the population (AP wirephoto)

Shi'ites fear bloodshed in South Lebanon if Israelis block feast

BEIRUT (R) — Shi'ite Muslim travellers from South Lebanon said they feared bloody incidents next week if Israeli troops interfered with the most important feast of the Shi'ite religious calendar in the town of Nabatiyeh.

Last year's celebrations of Ashura in the southern town of Nabatiyeh, the main spiritual home of Lebanese Shi'ites, erupted in bloody clashes when Israeli troops fired on a religious procession of an estimated 50,000 people.

Shi'ite feelings appear to be running high before Ashura throughout Muslim areas of Lebanon. Ashura, which falls this year on Oct. 4, marks the death in the year 680 of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein.

In West Beirut, gun-toting fundamentalist militiamen have entered bars, ordering them to shut for 10 days. Three bars, a restaurant and a bingo parlour have been blown up in the past three days.

A 38-year-old Shi'ite woman traveller from the South told Reuters Thursday: "If the Israelis try to interfere again in Nabatiyeh it will lead to massacres."

Last year's clash in Nabatiyeh, in which a Shi'ite was shot dead by Israeli troops and nine wounded, intensified Shi'ite resistance to the occupation. Four Israelis were injured by sticks and stones and military vehicles burned.

Ashura is an emotional occasion for Shi'ites, the predominant sect in South Lebanon, and thousands flock to Nabatiyeh each year for the celebrations.

The woman, who travelled to Beirut from Ain Kaneh, a village 10 kilometres from Nabatiyeh, said: "Ashura can never be cancelled, no matter what the Israelis may do. Tens of thousands of people go to Nabatiyeh for the feast."

Her companion, a 48-year-old Shi'ite farmhand from near Nabatiyeh, said: "The Israelis tried to stop last year's procession. They drove through it. If they do it again there will be trouble, but nothing will happen if they keep away."

It was not known if the Israelis planned to bar the celebrations. Since Sept. 20, they have banned Beirut-based reporters from entering the South.

The woman said the Israelis were widely hated in the South and that their 2,000-strong "South Lebanon Army" militia would be massacred when they left.

"If the Israelis withdraw I am sure the Shi'ites in Lahd's army will be punished by the people," she said. "The national resistance movement will not leave any Lahd militiamen alive." The militia is commanded by former Lebanese Brigadier Antoine Lahd.

Explaining her feelings for the Israelis, she said the bullet-riddled body of a young man arrested in her village 10 days ago was returned to his family next day for burial.

Israeli treatment of Lebanese

travelling to and from the South was "disgraceful," she said. "When people complained about waiting five hours in the sun, they fired in the air and hit people with rifle bullets. When I complained, an officer said in broken Arabic 'go back to Beirut, Arab bastards!'"

"Even the way they made us board the bus to cross was disgraceful. We were not allowed to board one-by-one, but were physically pushed in groups by the Israelis who were shouting and insulting us," the woman said.

"It was very bad treatment. I have never had such treatment in my life. I don't want to go through that torture again," she said.

A Reuters reporter who tried to interview people at the crossing point two days ago was ordered to leave by an Israeli soldier, who threatened to confiscate his press card.

The woman's companion said Israeli tactics were causing widespread poverty in the mainly rural South. He said he had 10 children to support, but had not worked for two months because farmers were letting their citrus crops rot on trees.

"The roads are closed by the Israelis so there are no exports. At the crossing I counted over 200 trucks with fruit and vegetables waiting in the sun with no hope of reaching Beirut," he said.

"If this goes on another month, everyone in the South will be penniless," he added.

Iranian leader calls for final 'military blow'

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's inner war cabinet Spokesman Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani called Friday for a final blow against Iraq to end the four-year-old Gulf war.

He told the Mass Friday prayer meeting in Tehran this was the only way to end the conflict. "There is no way of achieving

stability and peace in the region without eliminating the (Iraqi) Baath Party," he said.

Referring to supporters of Iraq Mr. Rafsanjani said: "It seems to us that they will not accept the Islamic revolution in Iraq and the victory of the Iraqi people without a decisive military victory and

until they despair of saving Saddam."

"Therefore we have to prepare ourselves to deliver that final military blow, then take advantage of it to achieve the political and revolutionary goals to save the Iraqi people and punish the aggressor."

The government also posted soldiers and armoured vehicles and installed barricades to guard the U.S. embassy's main compound, which is two blocks from the Saudi embassy.

The night before the Saudi embassy attack, gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades into the British embassy's new main compound in west Beirut.

Embassies improve security in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Construction crews at the British embassy in West Beirut Friday installed wire-mesh netting designed to protect it against a possible rocket-grenade attack.

The new security measure came amid intelligence reports this week that Western embassies in Beirut had been targeted for a terrorist attack similar to a Sept. 20 bombing that devastated the U.S. embassy annex in east Beirut.

The West German embassy went on high-level alert earlier this week after a Western intelligence report received in Bonn warned that the embassy could be among those targeted for attack, diplomatic sources said Thursday.

The sources said the embassies of Britain, France and the United States were also among the Western missions on alert.

They said steps had already been taken to increase security at those embassies, and plans were made to install anti-grenade netting at the British and U.S. embassies before the latest threat surfaced.

On Wednesday the Lebanese government posted paramilitary police on a road directly in front of the West German embassy and diverted most automobile traffic from the area.

On Thursday the road was completely blocked and only cars bearing German diplomatic number plates were allowed near the embassy.

Beirut Radio said Lebanon's Acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaff Thursday met British Ambassador David Miers to discuss security measures.

Mr. Miers and U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew were injured in the U.S. embassy blast. Mr. Bartholomew Thursday left Beirut for Washington.

Diplomatic sources said the governments of France, Britain, West Germany and the U.S., among others, were sharing intelligence data related to the security of their diplomatic missions and all were taking the latest report seriously.

They said the West German embassy itself had not received any direct threats and roadblocks outside the mission would probably be removed soon.

A block from the West German mission, at the Saudi Arabian embassy, Lebanese soldiers have been manning huge blockades of armoured personnel carriers, sandbags and concrete "dragon's teeth" barricades since its consulate-general was sacked and burned by Shi'ite protesters on Aug. 24.

The government also posted soldiers and armoured vehicles and installed barricades to guard the U.S. embassy's main compound, which is two blocks from the Saudi embassy.

The night before the Saudi embassy attack, gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades into the British embassy's new main compound in west Beirut.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
MAIN CHANNEL
17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
17:50 Don Quixote
18:00 Survival
18:10 Little Hotel
18:20 Programme Review
18:30 Local Programmes
18:40 News in Arabic
18:50 Arabic Series
19:00 Weekly Newscast
19:10 Arabic Film
23:10 News in Arabic
23:20 Series Comedies

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady
21:00 Amazing years of Cinema
21:25 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:10 Feature Film: The Switch

RADIO JORDAN
853 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
at parity on 9560 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newscast
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 News Summary
11:05 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Jordan Weekly Music
14:30 Concert Hour
15:00 News Summary
15:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Music
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 News
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Good Old Days
20:30 Just a Minute
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Country Music
21:35 News Summary
22:00 Play of the Week
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Classical Concert
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz.
06:00 Newsday 06:30 The Arab World 06:45
Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00
World News 07:05 24 Hours: News
Summary 07:10 Double Act The World
Today 07:20 Newsday 07:30 Album
Time 07:40 World News 07:50 24
Hours: News Summary 07:55 From the
Weekend 08:05 Merchants News Pro-
gramme 10:00 World News 10:05 Ref-
lections 10:15 Peckles' Choice 10:30
Brain of Britain 1941 11:00 World News
11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The
World Today 11:30 Financial News
11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 People and
Politics 12:15 Letter from America
12:30 My Music 12:40 World News
12:50 News About Britain 13:15 About
Britain 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio
Newscast 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45
Saturday Night 15:00 World News
15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30
Maigret 15:45 The Arab World 16:00
World News 16:05 Commentary 16:15
Saturday Special 16:30 News Summary
16:40 Saturday Special 16:45 Baker's
Half Dozen 16:55 Sports Round-up
17:00 Newsday 17:30 Play of the Week
17:40 In Two Minds 21:30 Album Time 22:00
Saturday News 22:05 24 Hours: News
Summary 22:30 Promenade Concert
22:35 A Well-Governed State 23:15
What's New 23:30 People and Politics
24:00 World News 06:00 From our own

VOICE OF AMERICA
1260 MW, 7200, 9365, 11740 11925
and 15210 KHz.

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the
hour; news summaries; daily business
reports; science and medicine, sports
reports; editorial; world and U.S. op-
inion roundups; documentary analysis;
American viewpoints; features 17:00
News 17:10 News 17:30 Special
English News and Features 18:00 News
18:10 American viewpoints 18:30 Press
Conference USA 19:00 News 19:10 This
Week 19:30 Special English News and
Features 20:00 News 20:30 Weekend
Survey of World News. Correspondent's
Reports, Music, Cultural
Events and Features 21:00 News 21:10
American Viewpoints 21:30 Press Con-
ference USA 22:00 News and Editorial
22:10 Music USA (Jazz) 23:00 Weekend
Survey of World News. Correspondent's
Reports, Music, Cultural
events and Features

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
"An exhibition of oil paintings by Lebanese artist Bassem Naser at the Royal Cultural Centre until Sept. 29
"Kuwait Cultural Week, until Sept. 28 at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CONCERT

"Piano concert at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 6110267
American Centre 44371
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 42023
Spanish Cultural Centre 23049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39771
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Montazah, Jabal Lubdich. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

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PRAYER TIMES

06:06 Fajr
05:29 (Sunrise) Shuruq
12:27 Duhr
14:52 Asr
17:24 Maghreb
18:47 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53230, 53702, 53717, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:50 Cairo (MS)
07:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:30 Agaba (RJ)
07:45 Karachi (RJ)
07:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
08:00 Kuwait (RJ)
08:05 Riyadh (RJ)
08:10 Jeddah (RJ)
08:15 Dhahran (RJ)
08:20 Beirut (RJ)
08:25 Cairo (RJ)
08:30 Singapore (RJ)
08:35 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
12:20 Moscow (SU)
12:30 Larnaca (CY)
14:30 Kuwait (KJ)
17:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:00 Frankfurt, Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:45 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
19:00 Tripoli (RJ)
19:25 Beirut (ME)
19:50 Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)
20:50 Cairo (MS)
20:55 Cairo (RJ)
01:18 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

05:10 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
05:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Cairo (MS)
07:30 Cairo (RJ)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
08:30 Athens (OA)
11:15 Tripoli (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
13:30 Rome (RJ)
13:30 Moscow (SU)
13:30 Larnaca (CY)
14:30 Bahrain, Doha, Muscat (RJ)
15:40 Cairo (RJ)
19:30 Kuwait (KJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:50 Baghdad (RJ)
21:50 Cairo (MS)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Uclink
— Irish Sea
— Sanko Pearl
— Cheneab
— Aldebaran
— Althara
— Eltor

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Belgian franc 64.3/ 64.7
Dutch guilder 115.4/ 116.1
Egyptian pound 320.7/ 323.7
French franc 42.4/ 42.7
Iraqi dinar 366/ 370
Italian lire (for 100) 20.9/ 21.1
Japanese yen (for 100) 161.5/ 162.4
Kuwaiti dinar 1339/ 1333.2
Lebanese lira 56.2/ 57.1
Omani rial 1138.3/ 1145
Qatari riyal 108.8/ 109.4
Saudi riyal 111.6/ 112
Swedish crown 45.6/ 45.9
Swiss franc 157.3/ 158.8
Syrian lira 46/ 46.8
UAE dirham 108.1/ 108.8
U.K. sterling pound 491.4/ 494.4
U.S. dollar 396/ 398
W. German mark 130.2/ 131

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine, with some low clouds and northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, it will be dusty, with northerly moderate winds and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C.

Amman 14/27
Aqaba 21/33
Desert 15/32
Jordan Valley 22/34
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 27.8, Aqaba 33.2. Humidity readings: Amman 59 per cent. Aqaba 34 per cent.

USE

Police call on citizens to report ill-behaved cabbies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has called on citizens who are subject to blackmailing or undisciplined behaviour from taxi drivers to take down the taxi's number, the model of the car and the line on which it is operating and to contact the complaints office, recently opened at the Traffic Department, telephone number: 97643 or to report to the nearest police office.

The PSD pointed out that the Traffic Department and police centres will take the necessary action against such drivers. The PSD sources also said that the cooperation of citizens with policemen is a national duty to help protect and serve the public.

Local company signs JD 6m complex, gardens agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement for carrying out the first stage of the JD 6 million King Abdullah complex and gardens was concluded here Friday between the Amman Development Corporation (ADC) and a local contracting company, ADC Director General Sami Al Rusheid said that the project will be constructed between Wadi Saqra circle and the Hussein Sports City. Mr. Rusheid said that the project includes constructing a commercial centre, a supermarket, restaurants, a post office, a bank

and other facilities on an area of 4,600 square metres, while the garden will be constructed on an area of 49,000 square metres. He added that the project also includes the construction of a car park for 750 cars.

Signing the agreement for the ADC was ADC chairman of the board, Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and Mr. Ali Subeimat for the International Contracting and Investment Company (ICICO), in his capacity as the company's chairman of the board of directors.

Phosphate company to set up loan fund for employees

AMMAN (Petra) — A half million dinar fund for the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) will be established soon, JPMC Director General Wasef Azar has announced following a meeting of the company's board of directors.

The fund, Mr. Azar said, will grant the company's staff easy loans to purchase houses in any area in Jordan. Mr. Azar added that the fund is considered as a pilot step in the field of solidarity between the company's staff and the administration.

Speaking about the one-day voluntary work which the company's staff undertook on the Hijra New Year, Mr. Azar said that this was a true and honest expression of loyalty and belonging to the country and reflects the positive reaction between the administration and the staff.

During the voluntary work day, the three mines in Russeifa, Wadi Abyad and Al Hassa produced 21,000 tonnes of phosphates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Week's accidents claim six lives

AMMAN (Petra) — Six people were killed and another 93 persons were injured in various road accidents in Jordan during the past week, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department. The bulletin said the casualties were the result of 178 accidents of which 132 occurred in Amman and the suburbs. The other accidents occurred in Zarqa, Balqa, Irbid, Karak, Ma'an and Aqaba, the bulletin said.

Abdul Jaber meets IBRD delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jaber Thursday received a delegation from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), who are currently on a visit to Jordan, and discussed with them cooperation in the field of vocational training. Dr. Abdul Jaber also discussed the possibility of supporting the professional health and safety institute and developing a new information system about the labour market and professional guidance.

Jordanian move draws mixed Arab reaction

(Continued from page 1)

Iran contended that the Jordanian move was aimed at "pulling" Cairo out of long years of isolation. Iran considers both Jordan and Egypt as enemies for strongly supporting Iraq in the Iran-Iraq war.

Here in Amman Jordanians interviewed by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, welcomed the resumption of diplomatic relations with Cairo and described it as a right step towards Arab unity.

Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez said Jordan's decision came after a comprehensive assessment of Egypt's policy towards Arab causes hence the decision came "very natural".

Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran said the policy displayed by President Mubarak indicated positive stands towards Israel's occupation of South Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and his support of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

President of the Jordanian Press Association Mahmoud Al Kayed said it was a "badly-needed, positive" step. He said the restoration of relations with Egypt will however remain a matter of formality unless followed by a total Arab solidarity.

Former cabinet member and former member of the National Consultative Council Dr. Jamal Sha'er said that isolation of Egypt from the Arab countries constituted a big gap, and expressed hope that the restoration of diplomatic relations will be part of a unified Arab stand.

Arafat leaves for Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

Arafat's visit to Cairo and increased Syrian demands for his resignation from the chairmanship of the PLO have been the major reasons hampering the convening of the PNC, the highest legislative body in the PLO.

However, Fateh, the mainstream commando movement and Mr. Arafat's power bases within the eight-faction PLO, managed to strike a compromise with four other left-wing PLO groups last June. Under the terms of the agreement all the five factions confirmed Mr. Arafat's leadership of the PLO, but the accord also put constraints on his political moves.

Perhaps the most significant and strongest reaction to Mr. Arafat's arrival in Amman following the Jordanian decision to resume ties with Egypt came from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of the four factions that reached the compromise agreement with

Fateh. A statement issued in Damascus by PFLP Assistant Secretary-General Yasser Abd Rabbo accused Mr. Arafat of breaching the compromise agreement, which was mediated by South Yemen and Algeria and reached in Aden and initiated in Algiers in July. Mr. Abd Rabbo called on the Fateh Central Committee, which signed the agreement on behalf of the commando movement, to condemn Mr. Arafat.

Political observers here believe that the PFLP's strong criticism of Mr. Arafat might reflect negatively on a meeting, scheduled to take place between the signatories of the Aden agreement next week in Algiers. The meeting is expected to fix a date for convening the PNC.

Meanwhile, the Jordan Times learnt Friday that Fateh officials in Amman have made contacts with the four factions in Damascus to ensure that their leaders will attend the Algiers meeting as planned.



Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani (fourth left), Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben (centre) and Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijem (fourth right) tour the site of the Zarqa Ma'in spa complex Thursday where they inspected the progress of work (Petra photo)

Ministers tour JD 12m Zarqa Ma'in hot springs, spa complex project site

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three Jordanian ministers, accompanied by aides, Thursday visited at the Zarqa Ma'in spa project, under construction 40 kilometres southwest of Amman, and inspected work going on at the hot springs.

The ministers of communications, industry, trade and tourism, and public works toured the site and were briefed by officials and engineers from the Jordanian Company for Tourism and Mineral Water, which is building the project, on the stages completed. They then toured the various parts of the project.

The company was established in 1980 to build and run the spa complex with encouragement from the ministry of tourism. The company's initial capital was JD 2.5 million in which the government has 64 per cent of the shares. The project covers a wide area of 60 hectares, offered by the government, and is located around the hot springs and the waterfall.

The company has obtained two loans totalling JD 3 million from

the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) with Jordanian government guarantees, and is currently trying to obtain another loan estimated at JD 5 million to complete the work, probably in the second half of 1985, according to a company spokesman.

Project facilities

The project, expected to have a total cost of JD 12 million, entails building a 142-bed hotel, a swimming pool, catering facilities, lodgings, a shopping centre, a post office, camping grounds and picnic sites along with a thermal bath for therapeutic purposes.

According to the spokesman, the project which is expected to attract foreign and local tourists in great numbers, will be run in cooperation with a foreign specialised company.

Following the tour, Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said that his ministry will provide telephone and telex services to the project by the end of 1984. Minister of Ind-

ustry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani said that the project has been established to develop the region's tourism and to benefit from the mineral waters found there for curing skin diseases and in physiotherapy. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism will supervise the activities of the company in a bid to promote the spa service which are unparalleled in the Arab World, Dr. Anani said.

Road links

Public Works Minister Rayef Nijem said that roads are being built to link Ma'in spa with Amman; and other smaller roads are being widened around the project. A total of JD 400,000 has been allocated for improving the roads to the Ma'in area, the minister said. In addition, the ministry has drawn up plans for building a road linking the spa complex with Sweimeh, near the Dead Sea, a 6-kilometre project expected to cost JD 2 million, Dr. Nijem added.

UAAE calls for use of modern cultivation methods

Agricultural engineers union issues recommendations to achieve Arab food security

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

in the Arab World.
Productivity

AMMAN — The Sixth Conference of the Union of Arab Agricultural Engineers (UAAE) concluded its last session here Thursday and issued recommendations that were aimed at achieving Arab food security and supporting the steadfastness of the Arab population living under Israeli occupation.

The conference, attended by about 70 delegates from 11 organisations in Arab countries, called on the Arab World to practically benefit from agricultural research in advanced nations and increase their establishments of experimental and research stations to help promote agriculture and hence increase productivity to meet domestic needs.

The five-day conference urged Arab states to encourage farmers to use chemical fertilisers, to give priority to the implementation of projects to less developed countries, to establish a pan-Arab company for producing improved seeds and pesticides and to adopt a joint plan for exploiting water resources.

Modern methods

The conference recommended the introduction of modern methods for increasing livestock and for assigning areas to be used as pasture land and to increase the effectiveness of agricultural extension services and training in agriculture-related fields.

At its closing session, the conference which is held in a different Arab capital every two years, appealed to Arab countries to implement resolutions adopted by the 1980 Arab summit conference which aimed at achieving food

security and strengthening joint Arab economic action.

The UAAE Higher Council also agreed to hold a meeting for the union in Tunis in April 1985 while Libya was chosen to be the site for seventh UAAE conference. The Libyan and Tunisian delegations at the conference had asked for the two meetings to be held in their countries.

The Amman conference entitled "Production Development for an Arab Food Security" reviewed studies and working papers presented by Arab experts tackling problems facing agriculture

Throughout the conference, a special emphasis was given on increasing the productivity of lands already cultivated. The Arab World suffers a 50 per cent shortage in food production while food imports increased from \$9 billion in 1977 to \$14 billion in 1981.

With an increase of three per cent in the Arab population, there is an increase of seven per cent in the demand for food. The conference warned there will be a continuous and accelerating deficit if the current trends continue.

A spokesman for the conference, Fuad Salameh, told the Jordan Times the conference's objective "was and will remain" achieving Arab food security which cannot be fulfilled without Arab agricultural integration. He said the conference's recommendations and resolutions would be submitted to the Arab governments for action.



Delegates to the sixth conference of the Union of Arab Agricultural Engineers (UAAE) conclude their meetings Thursday and issue recommendations aimed at achieving Arab food security (Petra photo)

Jerash excavations throw light on regional history as eras are unearthed

Text and Photos
By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

This is the first in a five-part series on the history and restoration of the Greco-Roman city of Jerash. In this article Mr. Khouri examines the establishment of the Decapolis cities and outlines the excavations undertaken by the French team of archaeologists who are working at the site.

JERASH — For the past two-and-a-half years, archaeologists and architects from eight different countries have been working together to excavate and restore ancient monuments and urban areas within the walls of the Greco-Roman city of Jerash.

As well as providing substantial new information on the heyday, between the 2nd and 6th Centuries A.D., of the city the Romans called Gerasa, they have also clarified the first and last days of the city. It is now certain that Jerash enjoyed a virtually uninterrupted urban existence for over 1,000 years, from the 2nd Century B.C. into the 9th Century A.D.

The work of the Jerash International Project is contributing significantly to our knowledge of the history of this part of the world between the 2nd Century B.C. and the 9th Century A.D., as well as providing new areas of interest for visitors and tourists.

When it launched the Jerash International Project in early 1982, the Jordanian Department of Antiquities aimed to bring together teams from up to ten countries, to work for five years in different parts of the city, simultaneously excavating and restoring its extensive monuments. But budgetary pressures caused the project to be curtailed at the start of this year, after two years of digging.

Most excavations were suspended in order to concentrate available funds on restoration work. Eight teams from Jordan, Great Britain, the United States, Australia, France, Poland, Spain and Italy dug at Jerash in 1982-83. Only the Spanish, Italian and Jordanian teams are still excavating.



General view of the area excavated by the French team of archaeologists with the South Gate of the city at top right.

Syria, though the Decapolis cities seem to have enjoyed a certain degree of autonomy.

The Decapolis probably ceased to exist as a distinct association of cities after 106 A.D., when the Emperor Trajan annexed the Nabataean kingdom, and rearranged the south-eastern flank of the Roman Empire. Some of the Decapolis cities fell within the new Province of Arabia, to the south, while others remained in the Province of Syria, to the north.

Jerash found itself in the heart of the Province of Arabia, close to the new provincial capital at Bosra, today in southern Syria. The advent of a long era of stability, rich agricultural lands, and its fortuitous location astride one of the most important international trade routes of the ancient world, propelled Jerash into a period of prosperity that would last for several hundred years. Most of the Roman monuments visitors see today date from the 2nd and 3rd Centuries A.D., often referred to as the "Golden Age of Jerash."

The founding of the city has always been shrouded in the haze of Middle Eastern Hellenism. Following the conquest of the region by Alexander the Great in 334 B.C., Jerash probably started as one of the many Hellenistic colonies planted in the area and manned by Macedonian settlers.

The French excavations

Excavations by the French team near the South Gate have unearthed Middle Bronze Age (circa 1500 B.C.) and Early Iron Age (1200-1100 B.C.) pottery in wash layers seven metres below the surface of the earth. The earliest *in situ* structure discovered was the stone floor of a Hellenistic building from the middle of the 2nd Century B.C., strengthening the belief that the earliest Hellenistic city at Jerash was established during the 2nd Century B.C.

Most scholars agree the Hellenistic city was located on and around the hill overlooking the Oval Plaza from the east, where the former restaurant still stands. The Hellenistic city's main temple, dedicated to Zeus, was located, most likely, atop the hill on the other side of the plaza, where

the tower and the city walls through a door that is still visible just west of the South Gate.

Military zone

The row of column bases closer to the South Gate once formed a portico that separated the market area from the South Street. The short passageway that led from the South Gate to the Oval Plaza (or the "Forum", as it has been popularly known). This market area was destroyed towards the end of the 3rd Century A.D., after which it was transformed into a military zone, separated by a thick wall from the South Street. The restoration today is that of the late 3rd Century A.D. military zone, which included a central courtyard surrounded by five rooms to house the soldiers who manned this precinct. The soldiers gained access to

the tower and the city walls through a door that is still visible just west of the South Gate.

In the 5th-6th Century A.D., when Gerasa had become a Christian Byzantine city, this area was again transformed into a marketplace, and included one room that seems to have been a potter's workshop.

The French team is now working in the Zeus Temple complex, initially restoring the wall that surrounded the lower courtyard of the *temenos*. Should excavation funds become available, the French hope to excavate on the hill on the east side of the Oval Plaza, to try and verify once and for all the presence of the first Hellenistic city in this area in the 3rd Century B.C.



The scale model of the ruins of Jerash on display at the site's visitors' centre. It was built with donations collected in the memory of the late G. Lanckester Harding, the first director of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities

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Jordan Times

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Senior Editor: RAMI G. KHOURI

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: No to Camp David, polarisation

THE ASSURANCES by Information Minister Laila Sharaf that Jordan's rejection of Camp David has not changed frankly means that restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt can not be interpreted as a retreat from Jordan's position. In the light of this, any misinterpretation of restoration or diplomatic relations is an illogical and unjustifiable deduction.

Jordan's positions are firm, since it supported holding an international peace conference in the area, rejected any partial solution and insisted that the Palestinians participate in any solution to the Palestine question. These facts are well-known to the whole world.

On the other hand restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt should not be interpreted as a trend for Arab polarisation or isolation of a single Arab party from the others. Jordan has always been rejecting and warning of the polarisation policy and its destructive role in separating and dispersing the people and flaring differences between Arab leaderships.

Jordan's position vis-a-vis the polarisation policy is a principled and unchanging one, because Jordan believes in Arab solidarity and not in polarisation, as some foreign news agencies said.

It is very difficult for an Arab citizen to hear somebody describing restoration of normal relations between Jordan and Egypt as an ordeal. It is even more severe to hear the information media in one or two Arab capitals describing the new move in a distorted and illogical manner.

It is time for the count down to start to mark the end of Arab disputes and lukewarm relations, particularly as the restoration or Jordanian-Egyptian relations has found a basis for building Arab solidarity, which is not built on Camp David accords nor on polarisation policies.

Al Dustour: Palestinian unity first

THE NEW mediation effort by some Arab parties to heal the rift between the Palestinian factions in preparation for holding the long-awaited Palestinian National Council (PNC) meeting seems to be a difficult mission.

The failure of some mediation effort exerted by some Arab parties some time ago is attributable to the adherence by some factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to their stands which do not help achieve Palestinian national unity.

At a time when hopes are pinned on the new mediation round, the Palestine cause itself is subjected to further dangers threatening its existence, without any sign by the Palestinians that they are ready to place the higher national interest on top of all personal and factional considerations and interests.

It is regrettable that some Palestinians think that through clinging to their positions they might be able to stop the seizure and confiscation of Arab land in the occupied territories and to obstruct the accelerating events around them and their cause, which has become at the bottom of Arab and International order of major concerns because of the internal Palestinian disputes and different positions.

Palestinian factions should pay special attention to what is going on in the occupied territories and to the sufferings of our people there instead of dealing accusations to each other and aborting all sincere efforts to restore things to their normal status on the Palestinian forum.

We hope that the new mediation efforts amongst the various PLO factions will succeed in healing the rift to give new life to the legitimate Palestinian institutions, which can no longer bear further paralysis.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Nationally-motivated step

PERHAPS JORDAN realises more than other Arab countries the importance of solidarity among Arab states and the joint Arab action to confront the common enemies and the challenges. Jordan believes it is very essential to have Egypt on the Arab side in this confrontation and in boosting Arab power in the regional and international sphere. That was the reason behind its decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Jordan has never ceased to rally Arab ranks and call on the Arabs to concert efforts for the common goals and destiny, and in reestablishing relations with Egypt. Jordan is putting into force and application its words and its conviction. The decision is bound to open the door wide for greater Arab solidarity and invite other Arab states to follow suit. The return of Egypt to the Arab fold is a great gain for the Arabs and an essential factor for their unity and joint struggle to regain their usurped lands.

With its decision Jordan has proved beyond doubt that it is sincere in its efforts to mobilise Arab countries' resources for embarking on joint action to achieve the aspired goals.

Al Dustour: Balanced U.S. action needed

RICHARD MURPHY'S tour in the Middle East is the first American diplomatic move in the region since last spring. His tour coincided with President Reagan's reaffirmation that he is committed to his Sept. 1982 proposals to settle the Middle East question.

When Murphy was in Amman, he must have heard again the Jordanian views about the situation in the region and its demands for a settlement. No doubt, he has been briefed on the subject by other leaders in the region and has by now created a good idea and an appraisal of the whole situation and the stands of the different parties to the issue.

We sincerely hope that the American administration will realise that it was Israel which had caused the present deadlock in the search for a settlement and caused the United States to lose credibility in the Arab region. It is due to U.S. support for Israel that the Zionist state has been hardening its position and refusing President Reagan's proposals and any others that can bring peace and stability to the Middle East. We hope that the U.S. administration will embark on meaningful and balanced action to help bring about a genuine peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Resistance not mediation

FOR THE first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Israelis are seeking to withdraw their forces from occupied Arab lands. This is happening in Lebanon where the Israelis have been sustaining casualties at the hands of the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance forces. The Israelis are seeking U.S. help to bring about a withdrawal of these forces that have suffered because of the adventures of Begin and Sharon.

It is a lesson for all Arabs to learn from Lebanon and the resistance there. Israel, which had defeated the whole Arab Nation with military force now stands in shame and comes out defeated from an area where destruction prevails, but where the people are determined to fight and struggle for their freedom.

Murphy's tour in the Middle East is designed to serve Israel's purpose and help the Zionists to pull out their forces from Lebanon. This tour is not in the interest of the Arabs but rather to serve the goals of Israel and to reduce the burden of Tel Aviv's government. Also Murphy's tour and his contacts to bring about a withdrawal is meant to serve President Reagan and show him and the U.S. administration as peace mediators.

We hope that the Arabs would learn from the resistance of the Lebanese that has prevented Israel from achieving its goals in Lebanon.

There are other things to fundamentalism

By Musa Keilani

A QUACKER friend of mine wrote asking who Jordan's fundamentalists are and what their ideology is.

The answer is: They are Muslims and their ideology is Islam. But their "Islam" is not a religion in the literal sense of the word as used by the church. Islam is not a religion confined to the relationship between man and God. Islam to Jordan's fundamentalists is a way of life, a complete way of life, covering all fields of human activity, regulating all of its aspects: individually and socially, materially and morally, economically and politically, legally and culturally, nationally and internationally.

Islam is a way of worship as well as an integrated system of government. It is an economic system and an educational system. It is a political system as well as a judiciary system. It is a spiritual and a human totality. Religion and politics are the two sides of the same coin. There is no contradiction between religious consciousness and political decisions.

It is only normal to have an Islamic reaction by returning to the ideal ethos of Islam after the successive traumatic experiences which plagued Muslim societies in this century; militarily, politically and socially.

Fundamentalists condemn the total failure and miserable incapacity of the "elite" of

Muslim countries to establish a legitimate order in any region without total resort to coercion against their own citizens.

The "elite" failed to achieve a balanced economic development and true social justice. Incompetence, corruption, inflation, class polarisation, conspicuous consumption and rural poverty prevail while they should be non-existent in an Islamic society.

Militarily, the Muslims defeated in Palestine, Pakistan and Lebanon produced shock waves all through the Muslim world generating feelings of fear, insecurity and inferiority. Failure of some Muslim leaders

to support the Palestine cause militarily brought vehement protests from the new generations of Muslims in their own countries.

So, the frustration engendered by political repression, economic coercion, military defeats and "Third World" backwardness made many people see Islam as the only practical political alternative as well as a secure spiritual niche and a psychological anchor.

The alienation felt by the new generations of Muslims is due to the frustrations caused by political, economic and military factors. Consequently, a return to the roots and fundamentals of Islam, which formulates an ideology to capture the "alienated" and prevent social atomisation could create the psychological harmony needed. Islam encourages the political activist as well as grants an escape from politics in the ascetic "sufi" milieu of a "khalwa" of communal "zehr" or a mosque.

In Jordan, Muslim fundamentalists do not feel the alienation suffered so intensely by their "brothers" in other countries, due to the distinctive fibre of Jordan's society. The political leadership here adheres to the fundamental tenets of Islam. Moreover, there is a clear-cut developmental ideology for economic planning and mass mobilisation, general pulse of the people Islamically oriented.

Facing an enemy with a nuclear deterrent across the border solidifies the ranks of fundamentalists and moderates, militarily speaking. Consequently, in the case of Jordan, Jordanian fundamentalists, whether in government offices, parliament or refugee camps, do constitute politically a strategic asset which is constructively contributing to the general welfare of our society. The vast reservoir of political stability they offer here is as uniquely distinctive as Jordan's fibre.



Will Israel quit Lebanon this year?

By David Rogers

TEL AVIV — A pragmatic approach by Israel's new government has bolstered hopes that its goal of withdrawing troops from South Lebanon will be achieved within a year, according to Western diplomats.

Less than two weeks after Prime Minister Shimon Peres' multi-party coalition took office, the diplomats say they detect a more resolute and flexible approach.

Israel is no longer insisting that its withdrawal be accompanied by a simultaneous Syrian pullout from east Lebanon. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the New York Times in an interview published Monday that his government is trying to involve the United States in mediation with Damascus.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived in Tel Aviv from Syria Monday to brief Israeli leaders. Israeli officials said his talks in Damascus had centred on arrangements for a troop withdrawal.

Unlike the old, hardline leadership of Menachem Begin, the new government is cooperating willingly with the United Nations.

Instead of scolding UNIFIL, the 5,700-man peacekeeping contingent in South Lebanon, it seeks a role for the force.

Already Mr. Peres has had grim evidence of the dimensions of the problem and Lebanon's propensity for violence.

Last week друзе members of the South Lebanese Army (SLA), an Israeli-created militia, killed 13 villagers in cold blood to avenge the deaths of four comrades.

The massacre damaged Israeli efforts to promote the 2,000-strong SLA as a credible force capable of handling security in South Lebanon after the army withdraws.

The Israelis depicted it as an aberration and for the time being are standing by their SLA protégés.

Western military experts say it confirmed their doubts about the predominantly Christian militia and highlighted the dilemma facing Israel — how to secure the northern border from Palestinian guerrilla attacks when the army withdraws.

Israel invaded Lebanon 27 months ago with the declared objective of driving the guerrillas out of rocket range. But Mr. Begin's right-wing government also had political ambitions.

It spoke of bringing order to Lebanon and signing a full peace treaty with Beirut. Mr. Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin never embraced these aims and are not under pressure to prove "Operation Peace for Galilee" achieved political results.

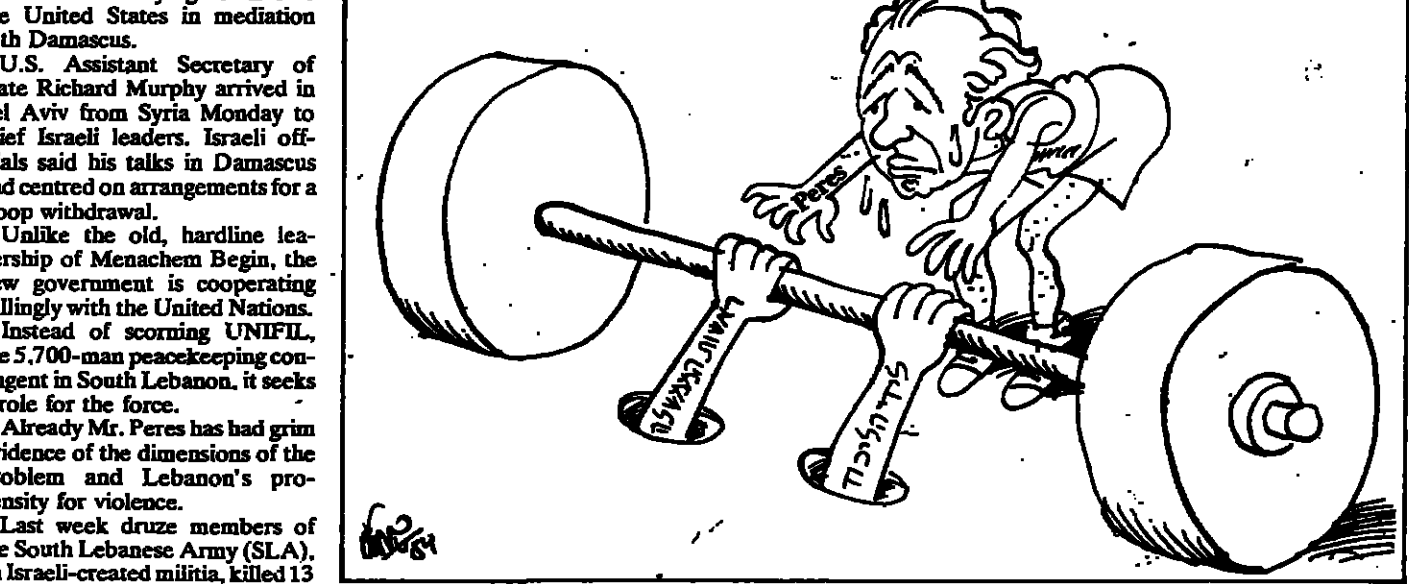
By seeking U.S. mediation with Damascus, they are now acknowledging Syrian assistance is needed to stop Palestinian guerrillas from returning to old strongholds in South Lebanon.

Mr. Rabin has had previous dealings with Damascus. He was prime minister in 1976 when, with the Americans as go-between, the so-called "red line" was agreed on how near Syrian forces in Lebanon could come to the Israeli border.

U.N. Under Secretary-General Brian Urquhart, who toured the Middle East last week, said the Syrians appeared to appreciate Israel's need for security arrangements. He spoke of "a mood of realism all over" and was expected to continue talks on UNIFIL's future at the current U.N. General Assembly in New York.

The force's mandate expires next month and Israel now says it sees a continued role for UNIFIL in policing the area.

Political analysts say it is important for Mr. Peres, whose coalition is divided, to deliver on his troop withdrawal pledge.



South Africa's black miners open new chapter of labour history

By Thomas Thomson

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's black gold miners opened a new chapter in the nation's labour history when their fledgling union accepted a pay raise after their first legal strike last week.

The miners' victory was however overshadowed by violence in which seven workers died and over 250 of their colleagues were injured.

"This was the coming of age of the black trade union movement. It confirmed there can be no turning back," said Tom Lodge, politics lecturer at Witwatersrand University.

"Black trade unions have the potential to become probably the single most important organised force representing blacks in this country," Mr. Lodge, author of a definitive work on black political history, said.

The Chamber of Mines, which groups the mining companies, added 2.3 per cent to what it had called a final pay offer of 14 per cent only hours before the strike was due to start.

Around 40,000 miners did strike at mines owned by the giant Anglo-American Corporation amid confusion over whether the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) would accept the offer.

The seven miners died in riots at a mine not on strike while the 250 men were injured at striking pits. The union later accepted the offer.

NUM General-Secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said, "It was a victory. I would not say a total victory but it was very important to get something the first time around."

"We accepted it (the revised offer) because we felt we had pushed the chamber to a point where they could feel comfortable. If we had been stronger we would have gone for more," said the 32-year-old black lawyer.

The NUM, which claims 90,000 members among the half million blacks working in the nation's gold mines, is a product of a series of amendments to the labour laws since 1979 that have allowed black unions to organise on the same legal footing as white ones. The chamber estimates NUM membership at 10,000.

Mr. Lodge said of the strike: "This was the single most important event in South African labour history for 20 or 30 years."

The last major strike by black gold miners in 1946, when 60,000 to 70,000 men refused to go underground, was savagely put down at a cost of 12 dead and 1,200 injured. The defeat effectively destroyed the African Mineworkers Union.

Mine managers, who declined to be identified, said the chamber did not accept the union had won a total victory. The final offer of improved holiday pay, which the union calculated as equal to 2.3 per cent across the board, could have been obtained through negotiation without a strike, they said.

The strike and the violence were unnecessary because essentially when we negotiated with the union we were offering the same monetary framework," one senior official said.

Mr. Ramaphosa said his union's target was to raise membership to around 200,000 by the next wage bargaining round in July. "Because we were successful, it strengthens the whole black trade union movement," he added.

Industry experts said that although the NUM was an apolitical organisation seeking economic benefits for its members, its victory had serious political implications.

"The trades union movement as a whole has increased its bargaining position in the economy which no sensible politician can ignore," one said.

The NUM called the strike in a month of significant political change in South Africa, when a new constitution gave Indian and coloured (mixed-race) citizens a junior role in government but continued to exclude the nation's 73 per cent black majority from political power.

Some academics and unionists believe that national politics could play an increasingly important role in industrial action, particularly over the new constitution.

The Financial Mail, a weekly magazine, said "The strike has been a sobering experience for both sides."

"It is to be hoped that negotiations in future years, based on the newly-established balance of power, will enable strikes to be avoided."

The emergence of black unions has seen a sharp increase in the number of strikes in South Africa. Official figures show 35,754 workers were involved in strikes in the first five months this year, five times as many as in the same period last year.

The government also estimates that 470,000 blacks were union members last year compared with none in 1978.

The first legal national strike by blacks began as a pay dispute and involved 8,500 workers for AECI limited, the country's major explosives firm, early this year.

Widely publicised, it ended in a crushing defeat for the South African Chemical Workers Union and failure for the workers who returned to work after being threatened with dismissal.

Confidence in Marcos ebbs away

The economic deterioration of the Philippines contrasts sharply with the performance of its neighbours, and much of that is due to its all-powerful leader, President Ferdinand Marcos. Chris Sherwell, recently in Manila, reports that confidence in Mr. Marcos has probably never been lower.

In an ugly corner of Makati, Manila's financial district, a row of stalls sells the latest electronic gear from abroad. Nearby, among the skyscrapers, an upmarket department store offers designer fashions, and a delicatessen sells snails, truffles and fine wines.

Western bankers awaiting repayment on a large number of loans point to the imported merchandise in disgust. Local businessmen whose operations are suffocating for lack of foreign exchange are furious.

All agree that the shops survive because of smuggling, privileged access to dollars or good political connections. In doing so, they say, they symbolise what is wrong in the Philippines.

The Philippines has the only severely contracting economy in the region, escalating unemployment, 50 per cent inflation, the second largest foreign debt in the continent (\$25.6 billion), and is the only Asian country seeking a rescheduling. But this is only part of the story.

The government says the Philippines was hit badly by the oil shocks and recessions of the 1970s. Like other developing countries heavily dependent on trade, it decided to finance increasing current account deficits in order to maintain growth, and it did this principally through foreign borrowing.

When the Philippines, like Latin American countries, faced difficulty because of the prolonged Western recession of 1980-82 and sharply higher borrowing costs, it followed an International Monetary Fund (IMF) & World Bank road to rehabilitation. But a drought in 1982-83 was a severe setback, and the assassination in August 1983 of opposition leader Benigno Aquino brought a disastrous outflow of capital.

This account withstands only cursory scrutiny. Since President Ferdinand Marcos came to power in 1965, the Philippines has moved from being one of the fastest growing economies in the region to one of the slowest, averaging just 3.4 per cent in the 1970s. Under Mr. Marcos the country relied too much and for too long on foreign commercial borrowing and did too little to generate domestic savings or contain government deficits.

The pattern was begun in the second half of the 1960s and intensified thereafter. Government spending on infrastructural and capital-intensive projects surged from the start, while productivity growth remained easily the slowest in the region and the savings-investment gap widened.

The resulting resort to foreign borrowing makes the banks look as carefree as Mr. Marcos. External debt doubled between 1966 and 1970, trebled between 1970 and 1975 and quadrupled between 1975 and 1980. During this time the so-called "cronies" emerged — family associates of Mr. Marcos — as favours were dispensed and the government guaranteed foreign loans even to private groups.

According to recent study by the economics department of the University of the Philippines, individuals and groups simply used the government to promote private interests, and this led to an unprecedented and costly expansion of the state's role in an economy supposedly based on free enterprise.

The study says few of the investments the government became involved in were truly productive, and many offered an opportunity for financial and political gains. Foreign loans may well have been made on a sound basis, it suggests, but most were made because of government guarantees. More importantly, they freed domestic resources for more dubious purposes — supplying the military, bailing out favoured corporations and building "palaces".

"The main characteristic distinguishing the Marcos years from other periods in our economic history," says the study, "has been the trend towards the concentration of power in the hands of the government, and the use of governmental functions to disperse economic privileges to some small factions in the private sector."

It thus seems to have been more than mere events which conspired to bring the Philippines close to economic collapse. By the 1980s, the government was resorting increasingly to short-term commercial borrowings to meet its rising interest payments. It boosted rather than cut its deficits, even as the recession deepened and previously attractive real interest rates reversed and turned skyward.

An IMF-World Bank programme under which the government was to bring its deficits under control and reduce protectionist barriers made some headway, but it had stalled by mid-1983. The independent (and often critical) Centre for Research and Communications in Manila says things were still broadly on course at this point: Mr. Marcos had allowed some business associates to fall from favour and the IMF medicine was being taken, rekindling investor confidence abroad. But then came the assassination of Mr. Aquino.

The view from afar is otherwise. The killing was damaging, but the IMF, through its now-departed representative in the Philippines, had failed to monitor economic developments closely enough. The government was not only drifting from its targets. It was artificially massaging its official reserves figures, a deception which, when discovered, blew away most of the trust among both official and commercial creditors.

Since then, matters have hardly improved. In the course of anguished negotiations over the past year between the IMF and the Manila government on an SDR615 million (\$609 million) standby credit, domestic credit has expanded beyond new nominal targets to prevent troubled banks collapsing and to fund the ruling party's May parliamentary election campaign. President Marcos also postponed other actions — like the third devaluation of the peso since June 1983 — so that, when tough measures did come to be taken after the election, they seemed too little, too late.

Senior Filipino businessmen, and Western bankers and diplomats, believe only the IMF and the U.S. government have the clout to push Mr. Marcos as far as is now needed. One hopeful sign is that an IMF agreement now really seems to be imminent, but all agree that a dilution of Mr. Marcos' vast decree-making powers is essential.

Confidence in Mr. Marcos has probably never been lower: not only among the splintered, ineffective opposition, but even among his own party; not only among the corporate sector but also among labour; not only among the Communist-based guerrilla insurgents, but among his closest foreign ally, the U.S.

The first real sign that confidence is returning, moreover, will not come when an IMF deal is agreed, but when Filipinos themselves — workers and barons — repatriate their dollars held abroad.

The University of the Philippines study is categorical: nothing less than "a change in the system of government, towards less centralised political and economic decision-making and greater public accountability" is necessary if the problems are to be overcome. — Financial Times news feature.

It takes time to cross the barrier



Talking straight Marwan Muasher

LAST MONTH, two of my friends got married to each other. It was as lively and usual a party as any in Amman. And yet, there was something unusual about the marriage. My two friends belong to different religions.

What is happening in the Jordanian society? Religion and sex were two of the biggest taboos that could not be talked about.

Both dictated norms that were strictly adhered to, and seldom violated. The incident that I talked about admittedly took place with an extremely small and educated sector of our society. Still, it remains fair to ask whether such incidents are the spear of more similar happenings, or whether they remain isolated incidents that do not point to any particular

trends?

The problem of "cross-religion" marriages in our society, or in any society for that matter, is not a new one. It is not my intent to go into the advantages and disadvantages of such marriages. I did that in an earlier article about "cross-culture" marriages, and was mistakenly viewed as being against such marriages. My view, then and now, about cross-culture or cross-religion marriages, is that they should remain a personal choice of couples who weigh their pluses and minuses and take their decisions accordingly. The question that is raised here, therefore, is one of whether our society allows such personal choices.

There is a definite strong resentment against such mar-

riages among Jordanian families, a position that crosses over economic, religious and educational lines. In fact, the stand against such marriages often comes not out of religious convictions, but of social considerations. The act is still considered socially unacceptable. Whereas relations between Muslims and Christians in Jordan are an example to be followed all over the Middle East, there is still an unwritten code that defines the limits beyond which adherents to each religion should not cross. Marriage has to rank among the strictest of these limits.

Reasons for this vary, but are all obvious as well as universal in nature. There is no need, therefore, to list them here. What is happening, however, is what I see as a slow, gradual

shift towards trying to break these barriers. In a world where romantic love is replacing match-making as a basis for marriage, where pluralism of ideas is taking over the notion of the monopoly of truth, the young, educated generation cannot understand, or sometimes see, these barriers. Young couples do not sometimes understand how religion, supposedly a uniting factor among human beings, can act, (or made to act) to separate between two individuals who otherwise share the same culture, background, and even religious principles. The older generation, on the other hand, cannot, or does not wish to, break an old-time barrier that is part of life itself, as far as it is concerned.

Yet the fact that my two friends

did get married means that such barriers are being broken. The fact that people came to the wedding means that at least some of them, however small the percentage, approve of such a marriage. And the fact that people danced at the wedding means that at least some, however few, were genuinely happy for the couple.

There are so many problems that my two friends will face. Anytime they will have marital problems, people will blame them on their different religions. Some of them, of course, will be. Their two families will feel awkward dealing with each other, and there are doubts as to how close the families will get. But, as much as it sounds boyishly naive, there is the chance that these two people

will realise that above all, they are human beings in love, no different from any other Jordanian couple.

Jordan, perhaps as any other nation, faces problems of its own. Perhaps one of the most serious is the lack of a fully-developed sense of belonging to the nation. It is so sad that we continue to label people as Jordanian or Palestinian, Muslim or Christian. We are all living on this piece of land, and that should make us all citizens of this land, caring for it, belonging to it, and working to improve it. There is nothing more heartening, therefore, than to witness bold moves such as these, unshackling old chains and bringing people of this land closer together. Isn't this, after all, part of what religion is all about?

I have to admit that any hope for such across-the-barrier marriages to happen more often is extremely naive. Religious prejudices are still strong not only in developing countries such as ours, but all over the world as well, including the "well-developed" countries. Man, eager to abide by strict moral guidelines as to regulate society, has often stepped over the limit to create backfiring effects. That does not mean, however, that I cannot support the idea of such marriages when they occur. For whereas many people might view them as an unjustified rebellion against social norms, I choose to look upon them as another attempt by human nature to explore its real and inner depth against all odds.

Western clothing discouraged in Saudi Arabia

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia — Thousands of private schoolboys, who used to wear Western-style shirts and trousers, now arrive for classes in the traditional Saudi-style "thobe," a white ankle-length shirt with long sleeves.

The switch, which the government said involves more than 41,500 students, follows a recent government ban on pants and shirts at privately run schools.

Boys at public schools have traditionally worn thobes, but at the more avant-garde private schools, Western "garb" has been commonplace for the past 25 years.

Abdullah Mohamed Al-Zaid, director-general of education in the kingdom's western province, said the private-school boys were required to resume wearing the thobe because of "its beauty and our pride for it" and to help "inculcate the love and pride" in stu-

dents.

On the other hand, girls at both public and private schools have always worn uniforms, comprised of long-sleeved blouses and floor-length skirts for the younger students, and, for older girls, long dresses and head coverings.

The recent ban on Western togs, in part, reflects the government's continuing campaign to limit undesirable foreign influence — especially among youth — and to preserve the native culture.

Saudi educators also favour uniforms for pre-university students, and the wide diversity of style and colour available in pants and shirts is not conducive to uniformity.

With the growing schoolboy mania for soccer here, fueled by the historic entry of the Saudi National Team at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, schools also have to contend with gaudy sports out-

fits.

Some parents prefer a pants-shirt outfit for their sons at school because the polyester fabric of thobes is easily torn and its white colour shows dirt. Yet the government was easily able to turn the fashion tide at the private schools.

The national dress is more difficult to mandate in other areas of Saudi life, however.

For example, the thobe has been replaced by shirt-and-pant uniforms for the kingdom's military and police and by Western-style "safety" clothing for industrial workers.

Though regal-looking in the traditional Saudi context, the spotless and tailored thobe can be inappropriate for physical activity. Its snug torso contours limit body movement. Its sometimes floppy sleeves provide ready snags for machinery, and the long, slightly

flared hem can restrict movement.

Generally worn beneath a thobe is an absorbent cotton T-shirt and light cotton underpants whose legs extend to the ankles.

The other key accessory to Saudi dress for men is the head scarf: Either a white cotton covering called a "ghutra" or a red-and-white checked one called a "shmagh". This item is also not very conducive to safety in certain work settings today, though it has stood the bedouin in good stead for hundreds of years.

Traditional Saudi-style dress remains the universal non-work attire for Saudi males, who generally prefer white thobes in summer because they reflect heat, and coloured thobes of thicker fabric during the short cool season.

During their frequent travels abroad, Saudi men tend to leave their native duds behind. Some fear that thobes and ghutras in foreign lands are an invitation to muggings, while others simply do not like feeling conspicuous in a Western setting.

Although thobes can sometimes be a bit clumsy for active play, Saudi youths, like kids everywhere, innovate when their cloth hampers action. A common sight is a group of youths playing soccer on a dirt field after school — the long hems of their thobes stuffed under the elastic waistband of their under shorts.

Older youth who belong to one of the many private sports clubs in the kingdom leave their thobes in the club locker room and wear brightly coloured shorts and shirts to practise in.

Though shorts have traditionally been considered immodest and unacceptable public attire here, the growing importance of sport and the public's increased exposure to live and televised soccer in the kingdom is lessening that cultural reservation.

Saudi men may be experiencing some mild new options in regard to public dress, but for women the situation remains staunchly traditional and conservative.

Saudi women never go out in public without being covered from head to toe with an "abaya" — a dense, black cloak of silky material that has been required public wear for Saudi women here for centuries.

Under their abayas, however, Saudi women today are often exquisitely dressed in Western high fashions, Paris originals included.

434 days a year

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the traditionally energetic Jordanian businessman, there frequently aren't enough hours in the day to get his work done. For his employees, there aren't enough days in the year to get their holidays.

Nobody has ever publicly stated that Jordan has more holidays than any other nation in the world, but believe it or not, even those indolent guitar-twang Polynesians

King's birthday which fall respectively on May 1, May 10, May 25, August 11 and November 14.

All are official holidays and employers must give staff time off or overtime if they are willing to work. In the case of Independence Day and Labour Day, he faces a jail sentence if he does not allow the holiday or pay double time in lieu.

Then, there are the religious holidays — 23 in all, most of them official and all taken by adherents of both religions, not to mention non-believers. Every Friday, of course, is a

Occasion	Number of Days
New Year	1
Al Adha feast	5
Muslim New Year	1
Good Friday (Western)	1
Easter day (Western)	1
Ascension day	1
Good Friday (Eastern)	1
Easter day (Eastern)	1
Assumption	1
Propheet's birthday	1
Asbura	1
Al Fitr feast	5
Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj	1
Christmas	2

would have to relax a lot harder to compete with a country which provides for 434 days off a year.

That is in special circumstances, of course, but if they coincide, a Jordanian worker — employee — just might not manage to make 434 go into 365.

The vast number of days off stems from Jordan's character as a flexible and open kingdom and an extraordinarily generous attitude by Jordanian employers in a non-welfare country towards the needs of the private citizen.

Almost all the holidays are paid for government employees and in the private sector, employers usually find themselves forced to pay overtime if they need staff, whether or not his employees waste an average of two working hours a day reading newspapers and chatting with friends on the phone.

First, there are the national holidays, five in number namely, the labour day, renaissance day, Independence day, King's accession to the throne and

day off but some firms dealing with the Western world also take Sundays and the official yearly vacation is 21 days.

A woman is entitled to a day per month for health reasons. A bride or bridegroom gets one week off for a honeymoon in addition to annual vacation, and a pregnant mother is entitled to three months for childbirth. Six months paid leave is deductible every year for sickness.

If a close relative dies three days may be taken from work and if a distant relative dies, one day.

So it just could happen that a woman takes her national holidays (five days) and her religious holidays (23), every Friday and Sunday (104) and a vacation (21), gets married (seven), has a baby (90), falls sick (180), loses a close relative (three) and a distant one (one), to give herself a total 434 days off in a year which has only 365 days.

Maybe the government should pay her overtime for the "lost" 69 days.

PERSONAL VIEW



By PETER ENAHORO

LONDON — In the course of time, the world will know who the brains were behind the fanciful idea to steal former Nigerian Transport Minister Umaru Dikko in London and freight him to Lagos.

The Nigerian military government has denied involvement in the astonishing affair. That is good.

It is also bad. And frightening. It is good because any decent and self-respecting government would want to disassociate itself very quickly from the suggestion

Good to deny involvement in Dikko kidnap

that it has done business with the international criminal class.

The prompt denial by the Nigerian government was therefore necessary. It is imperative that a country to which so many Africans and indeed the black peoples across the world look with such high hopes should not become tainted with the same brush as that which branded the regimes of the likes of Idi Amin and Macias Nguema, who were "godfathers" to international criminal elements in their hunt for political opponents.

Despite its many hot-headed domestic aberrations — the sudden and unconstitutional changes of government; the assassination of political figures; the irrespressible and often destabilising rhetoric — Nigeria has always been careful to remain within the law abroad when it has sought to vent its spleen on its fugitive citizens. Older Nigerians recall the celebrated case of Chief Anthony Enahoro, whose extradition was successfully won through the British courts. In more recent times another British government refused to yield Yakubu Gowon and that was that.

Even more meaningful has always been the accommodating disposition of the individual Nigerian towards an exiled fellow countryman. They visited Mr. Gowon without a backward glance at pos-

sible prying Nigerian security agents. Odumegwu Ojukwu (whose extradition from exile in the Ivory Coast was never sought) held court openly in Abidjan.

I write as one who has known and enjoyed that strangely Nigerian magnanimity towards an exiled citizen.

In 1966, in a climax to five years of burning political upheavals, Nigeria exploded in a military coup d'etat. I fled my country. Shortly afterwards, in 1967, Nigeria degenerated into a cruel civil war. I found myself on the side of the "Indians."

The war has since ended and the wounds have long ago healed, but many still carry lasting personal memories. Unforgettable for me was the touching insistence of Nigerian officials to treat with us itinerant "rebels". An example of this was my stay, at the height of the war, with the Nigerian High Commissioner in Dar es Salaam.

We had met in Mwanza, in northern Tanzania, where TANU, the ruling party, was holding its national conference. I had arrived from Nairobi to dispense my uncompromising "rebellious" views and the High Commissioner was in town lobbying in favour of the Nigerian case.

At the end of the conference, and because I was struggling along on extremely limited funds, I app-

roached the High Commissioner for a lift in his car to the capital, which was more than a day's journey away. He agreed at once.

We stopped for the night in Dodoma, where we talked for several hours. He rebuked me and I returned the compliment. The next day, in Dar es Salaam, he refused point blank that I should stay anywhere but at his residence. And so each morning, for three weeks, I would set out from Nigerian soil to begin the campaign tour of the day.

At night we would sit down to dinner, often with perplexed and rather embarrassed official Tanzanian guests who were quite easily fascinated with our Nigerian eccentricity. But throughout the thirteen-and-a-half years during which I refused to return to Nigeria, I would be made welcome in the chancelleries of Nigerian missions and in the homes of Nigerians abroad behaving, as we like to say, "very Nigerian."

I have been ruminating nostalgically over this since the shock of the attempted kidnap of Mr. Dikko. Something has happened to damage the lovable Nigerian qualities that was the envy of other Africans.

There is admittedly at the present time an aggressively vengeful mood raging in Nigeria. When Nigerians search for clues to their

frustrations and cannot discover ready answers, they quite happily find a scapegoat in the latest ogre created for them.

I prefer to believe that the Nigerian government did not formally sit down to discuss and approve the plan to abduct Mr. Dikko. However desperately they may want him in Lagos, it would have been a disgrace and a contemptible faux pas for a country that has often (and quite rightly) berated South Africa for its gangsterism in abducting exiles from Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana.

Yet, contradictorily, I would have preferred that the plan to seize Dikko had the blessings of the highest authorities of the land. My meaning is this: circumstantial evidence points inexorably to the involvement at least of some middle-ranking Nigerian officials.

And that is what is bad. For what it reveals is that on the second, third or fourth rung of the ladder there are officials powerful enough to authorise and fund an extremely sensitive foreign adventure of this kind without clearance from the top. Heads should roll. There is no greater danger of a sudden slide from a benevolent to a vicious dictatorship than such powers in the hands of faceless agents who have been watching too many bad movies.

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Olympic machine gets rolling in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — An international athletic competition will feature the dedication of Seoul's 10,000-capacity Olympic stadium Saturday, attended by President Chun Doo-hwan and International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Two widely heralded Olympic gold medalists, however, dropped out of the two-day meet at the last minute, downgrading the competition somewhat.

Completed in seven years, the \$57-million modern stadium will serve as the main venue for the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul.

About 190 athletes from 40 countries will compete in 16 track and field events Saturday and a marathon race Sunday to commemorate the opening of the double-decked stadium, which stands in the heart of the Seoul sports complex, south of the Han River that flows through the centre of the South Korean capital of 9 million people.

Originally, U.S. track star Carl Lewis and Los Angeles Olympic marathon winner Carlos Lopes of Portugal were to run in the meet, which some local media called a mini-rehearsal of the 1988 games.

Lewis cancelled his scheduled appearance earlier this week, saying he was injured. Lopes, who was to run in the 5,000-meter race instead of the marathon, dropped

out later for unknown reasons. This left West German high jumper Dieter Mogenberg and Moroccan Said Aouita as the only Los Angeles Olympic gold medalists to compete in the Seoul meet.

Aouita, who won the gold medal in the 5,000-meter race, will run in the 1,500-meter race. Some sports experts here said this was apparently because Lopes was to run in the 5,000-meter race.

Mary Decker, the injury-ridden American 3,000-meter runner, is here but will not run. She will attend the opening ceremony and appear at gatherings of Korean fans.

Among other better-known competitors are Gabriel Tisacoh of the Ivory Coast, who won the men's 400-meter race at Los Angeles, Gary Honey of Australia, the silver medalist in the long jump at Los Angeles, and Judy Brown, of the United States, women's 400-meter hurdle silver medalist at Los Angeles.

Brown is entered, however, for the women's 800-meter race, together with Dorian Lambelet and

Deane Gutowsky, also from the United States.

Los Angeles Bronze medalists Ben Johnson and Desai Williams, both from Canada, will compete in the men's 100 metres and 200 metres respectively.

Also entered in the 200 metres are Montreal Olympic gold medalist Don Quarré of Jamaica and silver medalist Dwayne Evans of the United States. Evans will also run in the 100 metres.

Two well-known marathon runners from Britain, Ian Thompson and Ron Hill, will be among some 7,000 runners from about 20 countries for Sunday's marathon race.

Thompson's best time is 2:09.12, and Hill's is 2:09.28 for the 42.195-kilometre (26-mile) race, the best among the participants.

Despite inclement weather, a colourful pre-opening show was staged Friday night at a baseball park near the new stadium, including dance and music programmes, with about 35,000 people attending. The show was nationally televised, as will be the opening ceremony and track and field events Saturday.

Saturday's elaborate opening programmes will include a demonstration of Tae Kwo Do, Korea's self-defence martial art, a folk dance performance and a congratulatory message by IOC President Samaranch.

The Seoul Olympic Organising Committee has invited all IOC members of the world to the dedication ceremony, but most East European and other pro-Soviet bloc nations were absent as of Friday. China and Romania were represented.



Britain's Williams passes Jordan's Fasheh and dives in an attempt to score

Visiting British handball team defeats national Jordanian side

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British women's handball team started their Jordan visit with a magnificent win against the national Jordanian team Friday. The score at the end of a very exciting match was 25-8 (half time score 13-4).

The match was the Jordanian team's first match for three years. The team was recently regrouped and matches against visiting teams will be held to upgrade the standard of the team.

The British team, who is here at the invitation of the Jordanian Handball Federation arrived Wednesday evening to play three matches against the national team and a fourth match against Jordan University team.

The match was held at Al Hussein Youth City's Sports Palace under the patronage of Minister of Sport and Youth Abdallah Oweidat.

Blomqvist aims at rally championship

SAN REMO, Italy (R) — Stig Blomqvist, who leads the World Rally Driving Championship, will try to fight off a late challenge from flying Finn Marku Alen in the San Remo Rally which starts on Sunday.

The 38-year-old Swede has already made sure of the constructors' championship for Audi, notching up four of the West German team's string of six wins. But with only two of the three remaining races — San Remo and the RAC Rally around Britain — valid for the drivers' title, Blomqvist needs to win the five-day Italian event to put the championship completely out of reach of his Finnish rival.

Blomqvist currently has 113 championship points, ahead of the second-placed Alen with 90.

Alen is hoping that his conventionally-powered, rear-wheel drive Lancia will survive the rigours of the 2,613 km Italian competition better than those of earlier events this season.

The Italian car has had only one win this year, in the Tour de Corse, with Alen at the helm.

Special Forces win pentathlon

AMMAN (Petra) — The finals of the military pentathlon championship, organised by the Military Sport Federation (MSF) of the Jordan Armed Forces, was held Thursday at the MSF playgrounds. The championship included five events which were: shooting, swimming, hurdles, cross-country race and bomb throwing.

Six divisions participated in the championship which ended with the Special Forces team winning. The Infantry Corps commander deputised for the Chief of Staff and the MSF chairman in presenting the prizes to the winning team. Attending the ceremony were a number of Jordan Armed Forces officers and a crowd of supporters.

Sweden leads Czechoslovakia in Davis Cup semifinal

BAASTAD, Sweden (R) — Henrik Sundstrom scored an upset victory over Ivan Lendl to give Sweden a 2-0 lead over Czechoslovakia in their Davis Cup world group tennis semifinal here Friday.

Sundstrom, down two sets and trailing 0-3 in the third, clawed his way back from 0-40 in the fourth game to win 4-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Sweden, beaten finalists last year, got off to a winning start when Mats Wilander beat Tomas Smid 7-5, 7-5, 6-2 in the opening singles.

"This was my best match ever," a jubilant Sundstrom said after the match.

Swedish fans were already heading home as he went down 0-40 on his own serve in the fourth game of the third set, having relinquished the first three games in the face of remorseless attacking play from the Czechoslovak.

But their disappointment was premature. Sundstrom suddenly found his form and rattled off six games in succession to take the set 6-2. He

capitalised on some listless play from Lendl, whose concentration crumbled, and with an enthusiastic home crowd chanting their support took the fourth set 6-1 in just 26 minutes to draw level.

Sundstrom again broke Lendl's serve in the first game of the final set and took a 2-0 lead. Lendl held his serve in the third but was unable to profit from two break points in the fourth. He did not win another game.

In the opening singles, Wilander achieved the vital service break in the 11th game of the first set, which lasted one hour and was fought largely from the baseline.

In the second set no fewer than seven games went against serve. The score was level at 5-5 when the 20-year-old Swede turned on the pressure, winning the 11th game with an immaculate lob before holding his own serve to love.

Smid appeared demoralised in the third set and, despite the odd flash of fire, he had little to offer against an increasingly confident Wilander, who took the set 6-2 in just over 20 minutes.

Samaranch optimistic about Soviet presence at games

SEOUL (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch Friday expressed optimism that the Soviet Union would attend the 1988 Seoul Games.

Samaranch told reporters on arrival in Seoul to attend the opening of a new main stadium for the games that Soviet sports leaders he met in Moscow last week gave no firm indications whether the Russians would take part in the Seoul Olympics.

"But I, as IOC president, am optimistic they will compete here. Unless there is a drastic political change I think all IOC countries in the world could take part in the Seoul Olympics," he added.

The Soviet Union and other communist countries have no diplomatic relations with Seoul but China has said it will take part in the 1986 Asian Games and 1988 Olympics here.

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Iran seeks to expand trade with E. Europe

TEHRAN (R) — Iran is trying to expand trade with East European countries to help bolster foreign exchange reserves drained by its four-year-old war with Iraq.

Comecon countries often use barter trade and Iran has also turned to the system at times in the past two years because of low foreign reserves and difficulty in selling its oil.

Central Bank Governor Mohsen Nourbakhsh said a press conference this week Iran now conducts about a tenth of its trade with barter.

Communist states account for about eight per cent of Iran's imports. The Soviet Union has a 20-year-old barter accord with Tehran, under which trade doubled to \$12 billion between 1979 and 1983.

Iran's foreign exchange reserves were about \$7 billion at end-January, according to latest estimates, down 30 per cent from mid-1983, but up from \$1 billion in March 1982.

Diplomats said Iran's oil ministry apparently had to yield to pressure from other government departments to allow oil to be tied up in barter deals when it preferred to hold the oil in the hope of selling it later at a higher price.

The Gulf war, including Iraqi

attacks on tankers using Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal, and the need to slow output to support the market price of oil has hit oil exports.

Oil accounts for all but a negligible part of foreign income in Iran, which is a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Diplomats said in August that Iran could be up to \$3 billion below its oil revenue target of \$20 billion for the current fiscal year which began in March.

Threatened by declining revenues, Iran imposed a tight squeeze on non-essential imports to protect its foreign reserves. The squeeze has been only partially relaxed.

Iran has sent several missions to Eastern Europe in recent months. In August, it signed a pact with East Germany to expand trade and a note of understanding with Czechoslovakia for the possible delivery of over one million tonnes of oil next year.

Iran's trade with East Germany has jumped tenfold since the Islamic revolution in 1979 and tripled with Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria during the same time. Trade with Hungary rose by 400 per cent to \$435 million between 1977-78 and 1982-83.

U.S. banks cut prime interest rate

NEW YORK (R) — Big U.S. banks Thursday cut their prime interest rate, paid by their most creditworthy corporate borrowers, to 12-3/4 per cent from 13 per cent, giving a bonus to Third World debtor countries.

Economists had expected a rise in interest rates in the U.S. because of the rapid expansion of the economy and the demands of the treasury for money to finance the huge U.S. budget deficit.

In Washington, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan said Thursday he believed U.S. interest rates would continue to decline and might weaken the high-flying U.S. dollar.

At a news conference marking the end of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank annual

He said the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, would ease its monetary policy and put more funds into the banking system.

World economic conditions favoured lower interest rates, he said.

Chemical Bank led Thursday's downward move and was quickly followed by Chase Manhattan, Citibank, the Bank of America, the Bank of New York and Bankers Trust.

The prime rate rose to 13 per cent at most banks on June 25.

Last week, Morgan Guaranty lowered its prime rate to 12-3/4 per cent from 13 per cent, but no other banks followed immediately.

On Wednesday, Wells Fargo slashed its prime to a still lower level of 12-1/2 per cent from 13 per cent, a drop that was followed only by the small Southwest Bank of St. Louis Thursday.

A drop in the prime rate is good news for Third World debtor countries because the interest they pay on their huge debts to Western banks rises and falls with fluctuations in the prime.

Banking observers say the prime, once a first rank indicator of economic trends, now tends to follow other rates. They said Thursday's cut came after a downward trend in the federal funds rate, the one at which banks lend money to each other overnight.

Clausen regrets U.S. stand on IDA

WASHINGTON (R) — World Bank President Tom Clausen said Thursday he was deeply disappointed with the attitude of the Reagan administration towards raising funds for the bank, but was encouraged that other governments had offered additional financing.

The United States has consistently refused to make a large new contribution to the International Development Association (IDA), the bank's soft-loan arm, forcing a planned replenishment of its funds to be cut back to \$9 billion.

The World Bank had sought \$12 billion, but a proposal to make up the \$3 billion with special contributions from major members failed when blocked by West Germany and Japan.

At a news conference on the last day of the annual International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank meeting here, Mr. Clausen said Australia, the Netherlands and Switzerland had agreed to make voluntary contributions to IDA, which makes interest-free loans to the world's poorest countries.

Switzerland had offered 200 million Swiss francs (\$80 million), while the Netherlands had agreed

to put up \$30 million, he said. Australian Treasurer Paul Keating said earlier this week his country would make a voluntary special contribution to IDA of about \$200 million.

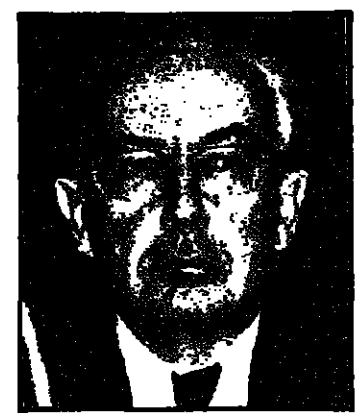
Expressing the hope that other industrial nations would also contribute, Mr. Clausen said he was encouraged by President Reagan's speech to the meeting earlier this week supporting the World Bank and its programme for sub-Saharan Africa.

"We are anxious and hope there will be authorisation and appropriation for \$750 million (in U.S. contributions) ... but also \$150 million carried over from the (previous) replenishment," Mr. Clausen said.

The World Bank president rejected recent media criticism of his leadership and said he had no intention of resigning. "I arrived to complete a term and do a job ... I think we are doing that job."

He said he was encouraged by this week's meetings and welcomed an emerging consensus that urgent remedies were needed to halt the economic decline in the sub-Saharan region.

"We must enlarge the flow of concessional funds to Africa," he said.



Jacques De Larosiere



Tom Clausen

IMF Managing Director Jacques De Larosiere, in a final speech to the meeting, also took up the plight of developing nations, including those in sub-Saharan Africa.

He noted the serious concern expressed during the meeting over the impact on these nations of recent commodity price declines, persistent high interest rates and protectionist pressures.

There was wide variation in the economic experience of developing countries and many still faced severe difficulties, with their per capita incomes low and their

debt situation worrisome, Mr. De Larosiere said.

But, he added, many of them had stressed that "the external economic environment that affects debt-servicing conditions was a shared responsibility, with a reduction in international interest rates and adequate access to growing world markets being essential elements."

In particular, he recalled that many nations had called on the United States to cut its budget deficit to help bring down interest rates.

China, EC initial new 5-year trade agreement

PEKING (R) — China and the European Community (EC) Thursday initiated a new five-year trade and economic cooperation pact, underlining big increases in their commercial and technical exchanges.

Senior diplomats said it would follow the general lines of the old agreement but would be wider in scope.

The European Community is a major supplier for China, challenging Japan and the United States.

Last year, according to latest Chinese figures, it recorded a surplus with China of \$1.25 billion in total bilateral trade of \$5.69 billion, reflecting a 23.3 per cent rise over 1982.

The previous agreement called for China to give favourable con-

sideration to community imports in return for increased liberalisation of imports from China into the community.

The community diplomats said China had been pressing the Common Market to recognise it as a developing country eligible for more preferential aid and treatment.

The pact would aim to increase and diversify cooperation in industry, mining, science and technology, as well as in energy, transport, communications and agriculture, they added.

Relations were helped earlier this year when a satisfactory agreement was reached over the problem of large Chinese textile exports threatening the community's domestic industry.

GATT fails to agree on agricultural reforms

GENEVA (R) — Talks aimed at liberalising world trade in agricultural products ended in failure Thursday after the European Community rejected a draft framework for negotiations, delegate sources said.

The two-day meeting of the GATT agricultural committee was wound up earlier than planned after the rejection of the draft drawn up by the staff of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which regulates world trade.

The draft, a result of six months of private talks by the 50-member committee, was rejected primarily because it envisaged a general prohibition on agricultural export subsidies, the sources said.

U.S. deputy assistant trade representative Suzanne Early expressed surprise and disappointment at the community's rejection of the draft and accused the community of going back on a previously established consensus, they said.

The draft, prepared for the 40th full session of the GATT contracting parties opening on Nov. 26, was accepted with varying degrees of enthusiasm by the other members of the committee.

GATT had been hoping to initiate global negotiations on the troubled world trade in agricultural products, a focus of dispute between the European Community and United States, and bring it more effectively in line with GATT controls.

After Thursday's failure, the sources said the GATT secretariat would try to resolve the deadlock.

Jordanian businessmen move to display products

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following the success of the first Jordanian industrial festival held at the Housing Bank Complex in Shmeisani last month, many Jordanian businesses are moving to display their local made or imported products at various exhibitions, providing in many cases special discounts and term credits.

Currently on display at the Al Abdali Commercial Centre, behind Alia's Abdali offices, are many items ranging from furniture and electrical appliances to clothing, levers and souvenirs.

This exhibition, grouping about 25 Jordanian companies provides rare buying opportunities based on low prices and easy terms in association with Jordan Kuwait Bank.

At the Holiday Inn another exhibition is currently displaying furniture, electrical appliances as well as carpets and drapes.

Exhibitions are also taking place in Jabal Amman and at the Housing Bank Complex in Shmeisani where a variety of Russian products are on display.

FORECAST FOR SAT. SEPTEMBER 29, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Startling and dramatic conditions can exist to take you away from some investigation in which you are engaging, so be prepared for and expect them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study your responsibilities and handle them well, even though you may have interruptions. Forget any depressing conditions.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be on the alert for some unexpected event to occur and handle the matter well. You may have to revise some plan you have made.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take a little time from your work and when you return to it, you have more vigor and can handle it better.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) While making plans for new outlets and pleasures, be sure you do so in a more modern vein.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good day to buy something new for your home and to make your family happy. Invite only those persons into your house who are cheerful.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Read over your correspondence so that you will know exactly how to respond and get the right results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be more modern in the handling of money and don't get so bogged down with work ahead of you that you fail to count the profit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get out of that rut and into something more interesting and profitable as well. Also make new friends who can be very stimulating.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may have to handle secret matters today that require time and thought, so use new methods and all is well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do some personal angling that can gain you a cherished wish. Some group affair could be rather dull, but you can gain needed data.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be more ingenious in handling in civic affairs and get the right results. Save time and effort by making some changes in careers.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study into new outlets that can better bring you your finest aims and get ahead very fast.

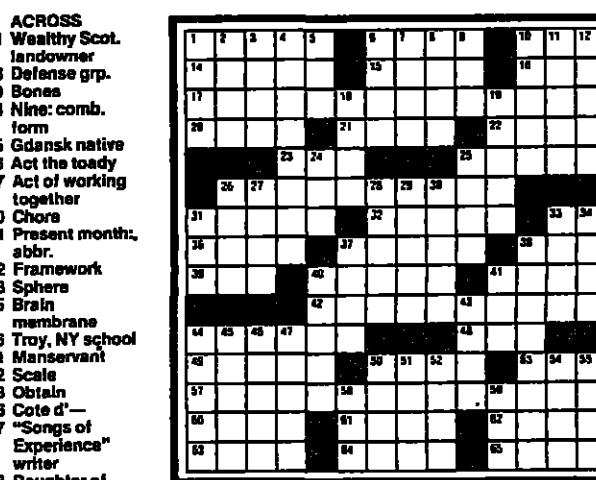
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will use much tenacity at whatever project he or she is interested in. Teach early that new inventions and improvements are constantly going on and to be sure to learn about them before tackling some job. Teach also to be more flexible in views.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
1984, The McNaught Syndicate, Inc.

THE Daily Crossword

by Jeffery L. Hayward

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1	WORTHY	SCOT
2	DEFENSE	GRP.
3	BOSS	
4	NINE	COMB.
5	FORM	
6	GLADSK	NATIVE
7	ACT	THE
8	TOGETHER	
9	CHOR	
10	PRESENT	MONTH
11	ABBR.	
12	FRAMEWORK	
13	SPHERE	
14	MEMBERS	
15	TRAY	NY
16	MAN	SERVANT
17	SCALE	
18	OBSTACLE	
19	COTE	D
20	SONGS	OF
21	EXPERIENCE	
22	DAUGHTER	OF
23	ARV	
24	NY	MAJOR
25	BUSHMASTER	
26	X-FACTOR	
27	GIVE	THE
28	NOD	
29	NAME	IN
30	HOCKEY	
31	CHEAT	
32	POTENCY	
33	BRUTE	
34	EXISTING	
35	TOGETHER	
36	HEAVENLY	BEING
37	FR.	
38	RADIANCE	
39	TERAPHIM	
40	JURY	MEMBER
41	WEIGHT	
42	ALLOWANCE	
43	CHEMICAL	COMPOUND
44	DOWN	
45	IN	CASE
46	AUTHOR	SETON
47	STOPPERS	
48	BOOK	OF
49	CODE	DEATH
50	ATOP	
51	LOVER	
52	TOUCHED	GROUND
53	SHRINE	
54	SKIMMER	
55	WITH	CHEEK
56	TO	
57	MYSELF	
58	AVOID	
59	APPROPRIATE	
60	SOUTHERN	DIET
61	BLISS	
62	QU	CONNECTION
63	SAME	FR.
64	LEVEL	
65	HEB.	MONTH
66	BRILLIANCE	
67	ANDERSEN	
68	TRANSPORT	
69	AUTHOR	CONRAD
70	CLAREN	
71	MARKER	FOR
72	ADDRESS	
73	SUMMER	
74	PIPE	JOINT
75	PREDILECTION	
76	MATES	IN
77	SOOT	WITH
78	BERKELEY	
79	GENTLEMAN	
80	LA	MAYA
81	ARTIST	
82	MUSIC	ACRONYM
83	KEY	OR
84	SCORCH	
85	MALICIOUS	
86	STIMULUS	
87	ERODED	
88	SMALL	
89	SEE	40
90	BURUSH	
91	RED	LETTERS
92	WRESTLING	
93	MILIEU	
94	NEVER	TO
95	WAGNER	

Answers to the crossword puzzle are provided in the adjacent column.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities ended the last day of the account lower on news that the U.K. pit foremen's ballot authorised strike action if necessary, dealers said. The FTSE 100 index, which touched a record 1146.0 Friday morning, was 4.8 points lower at 1139.3 at 1430 GMT.

Government bonds closed easier after a firm session, showing falls of around 1/2 point on weaker sterling. The Bank of England issued five tranches of existing bonds totalling £750 million. The market had widely anticipated an issue of "taplets."

Thorn EMI fell 9p to 422 and BTR fell 7p to 477, but ICI rose 2p to 654. North Americans were mixed and golds steady.

Oils were dull with B.P. down 7p to 513 on news that it abandoned its first Yellow Sea well after non-commercial oil shows. Lasso eased 7p to 346 and Shell 5p to 695.

Banks ended selectively off their highs, having earlier extended recent gains. Lloyds was up 7p to 514 and Barclays 2p to 514 while Natwest returned to 537 after 542. Discount houses met profit-taking after Thursday's sharp gains with Gerrard and National 5p lower at 304.

Trafalgar House closed 9p up at its year's high 299, still helped by hopes of a large Turkish contract. Reckitt and Colman ended 5p off at 558 on its bid for Nicholas Kiwi.

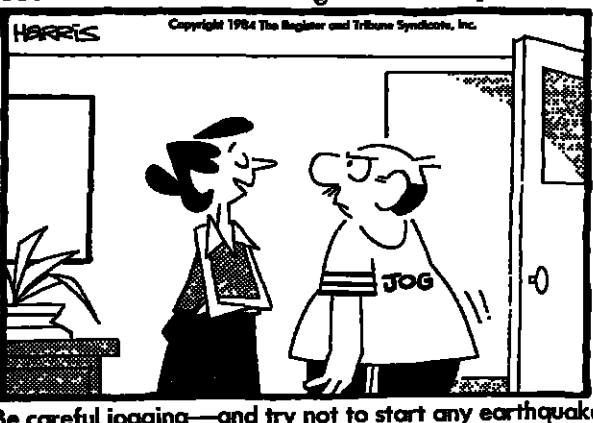
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.2475/85	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3163/66	Canadian dollars
	3.0235/50	West German marks
	3.4080/95	Dutch guilders
	2.4970/5000	Swiss francs
	61.29/34	Belgian francs
	9.2750/2850	French francs
	1882.00/1884.00	Italian lire
	245.20/30	Japanese yen
	8.5700/5800	Swedish crowns
	8.7475/7575	Norwegian crowns
	10.9450/9550	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	344.00/344.50	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF.

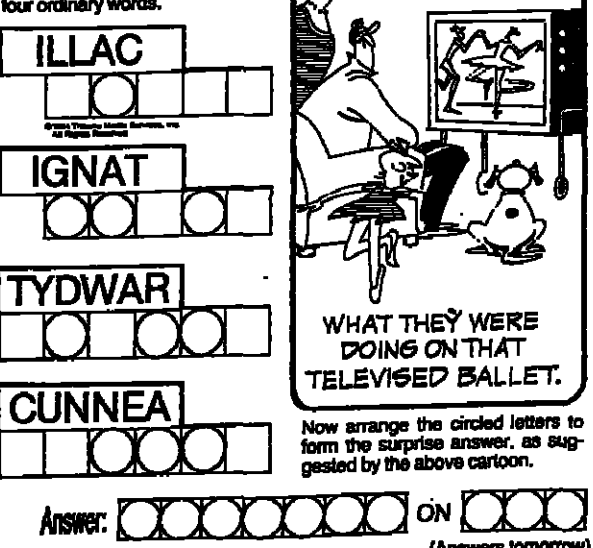
By Harris



"Be careful jogging—and try not to start any earthquakes!"

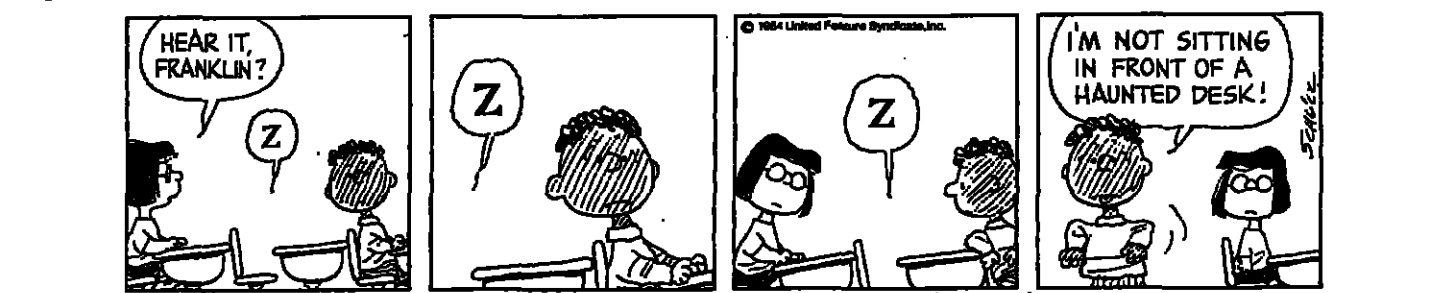
JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answers: ILLAC, IGNAT, TYDWAR, CUNNEA. (Answers tomorrow)

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



IAEA asks South Africa to open up nuclear plants

VIENNA (R) — South Africa was told Friday to open all nuclear plants to international inspection or face sanctions by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

An IAEA general conference resolution adopted here gave Pretoria one year to meet the demand.

The resolution, which expressed alarm at South African nuclear activities, was passed by 57 votes to 10, with 23 abstentions. The United States and other Western nations opposed it.

The resolution against South Africa was tabled by Morocco on behalf of black African states. It said unsafeguarded South African nuclear facilities enabled Pretoria to make nuclear weapons posing a security threat to the continent.

The IAEA safeguards some South African nuclear facilities but not a pilot nuclear enrichment plant near Pretoria.

The safeguards system checks diversion of civilian nuclear fuel to military projects.

An IAEA member must submit plants to safeguards if they are built with agency help but the pilot enrichment plant received no such assistance.

The resolution also called upon all IAEA members who had not yet done so to cease all transfers to South Africa of fissionable material and technology which could

be used to build weapons.

It called on members to stop purchases of uranium mined by South Africa in Namibia (South West Africa), which is ruled by Pretoria in defiance of U.N. resolutions.

The resolution asked the IAEA board of governors to take action according to the statute if South Africa had not opened all plants by the next general conference.

This implied Pretoria's IAEA membership would be challenged under a provision referring to persistent violation of the statute's principles, which are to promote peaceful nuclear energy, agency officials said.

The U.S., speaking against the motion, said no case existed to prove South African violations. "We do not share a belief that

the problem can be solved in a significant way through sanctions against South Africa," U.S. delegate Richard Kennedy said.

That would be tantamount to suspension of membership rights, he said.

He noted South Africa had already lost its voting rights at the agency because it was in arrears with its financial contributions. This was the "only legitimate sanction" it had deserved.

He commended Pretoria for starting talks with the IAEA on a safeguards agreement for another, semi-commercial, enrichment plant being built.

He warned that sanctions on South African membership could lead to closing the door with the country and could jeopardise existing safeguards.



AFRICAN BUTTERFLIES — French soldiers buy African butterflies from a Chadian merchant at the entrance of Dufar Military Camp, near N'Djamena as Libya said France began a unilateral withdrawal of troops from Chad (AP wirephoto).

COLUMN

Matador dies after goring

CORDOBA, Spain (AP) — Francisco "Paquirri" Rivera, Spain's leading matador, died Wednesday night after he was gored by a bull earlier in the day during an appearance in the village of Poblano. The 37-year-old Rivera was gored by his second bull while performing with the cape. He was reported dead on arrival at a hospital here. According to a medical bulletin issued by the bulfighting infirmary, Rivera suffered three wounds in the right thigh near the groin. Rivera, who was appearing in his last bullfight of the season, was awarded one ear for his bravery fighting his first bull Wednesday.

Man releases hostages, surrenders

ROME (R) — A man angered by a bank's refusal to grant him a loan held three women employees hostage for more than three hours Thursday before releasing them and giving up, police said. Francesco Rizzuto released the hostages and remained locked in a room, threatening to kill himself with a pistol, police said. He later surrendered and was arrested. Police surrounded the bank in Rome's historic centre, saying Rizzuto had what looked like a pistol although they could not say if it was real. Rome Mayor Ugo Vetere and other officials went to the scene hoping to persuade him to give himself up.

Deng's book goes on sale in English

PEKING (R) — An English version of the selected works of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, which sold 54 million copies in six months when first published, went on sale in Peking Friday. At the same time an exhibition opened in Peking praising China's achievements since Deng took power in late 1978 and began to reverse leftist policies inherited from Mao Tse-tung. Price of place among the 10,000 items on show went to the first contract signed by peasant families in December 1978, allowing them to keep most of the profits of their own labour instead of sharing it out in Mao's huge communes. The English-language version of Deng's book, containing 47 speeches delivered between 1975 and 1982, was prepared by the Communist Party's "bureau for the compilation and translation of works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin."

Marriage proposed with threat

LONDON (R) — A 40-year-old man's proposal of marriage made his sweetheart's blood run cold, a London divorce court heard Thursday. The judge granted a decree of nullity to Julia Betts, 24, who told the court she had agreed to marry Walter Street after he threatened to "break her legs" unless she accepted. Judge Monier Williams said: "I think she was frightened out of her wits. She was not the master of her own fate."

U.S. diplomat, aged 90, dies

BRATTLEBORO, Vermont (R) — Ellsworth Bunker, a veteran American diplomat who was U.S. ambassador in Saigon during the Vietnam War, has died at the age of 90, a hospital spokesman said Friday. He died Thursday at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, where he was admitted on Sept. 13 suffering from a viral infection, the spokesman said. Bunker represented the United States in Italy, Argentina, India and Nepal as well as in Vietnam, where he served between 1967 and 1973.

Candy crooks strike again in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Japan's mysterious poison candy gang has surfaced again with a new extortion bid against another leading confectionary firm. A letter signed "the man with 21 faces" demanded 100 million yen (\$408,000) from Morinaga and Company with a warning that non-payment could result in the same kind of treatment handed out last March to Glico, another candy maker. Police said the letter to Morinaga appeared to be the work of the same people who terrorised Glico. The head of Glico was abducted from his home and newspaper received letters saying poisoned Glico chocolates would be placed on store shelves.

Moscow hints U.S. 'leaked' report on UNESCO

PARIS (R) — The Soviet Union said Friday that the leading of a U.S. congressional report critical of UNESCO management amounted to a form of psychological warfare against the U.N. agency.

Soviet Delegate Dmitri Ermolenko told a meeting of the 51-member executive board of UNESCO that the draft report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) of its six-month investigation into UNESCO was meant to be strictly confidential.

"One can wonder if all this inspection activity was not a carefully thought-out measure in a series of steps aimed against UNESCO," Mr. Ermolenko said.

"In some mysterious way (the draft) was leaked out to the press and became a further tool exercising pressure on UNESCO. It's not surprising that a lot of people felt that such acts constituted an element of psychological warfare."

The GAO began its inquiry in

Paris after the Reagan administration decided to withdraw from the agency at the end of this year.

The draft report, copies of which were made available to news organisations in Washington last week, described UNESCO as badly managed and highly centralised and said it had little control over the large sums of money it spends.

The board is meeting for four

weeks to discuss proposals for internal reforms made by UNESCO Director-General Amadou Mahtar Mbow, parallel suggestions for change made by a 13-member committee set up by the board itself, and a preliminary report on the 1986-87 draft programme and budget.

Mr. Ermolenko approved Mr. Mbow's plans outlined Thursday to improve areas of UNESCO management which have been criticised.

TASS: Mondale could open ways for better ties

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet News Agency TASS said Friday that U.S. presidential candidate Walter Mondale put forward ideas which could pave the way to arms accords at a meeting with Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

In a report which described the 90-minute talks in New York Thursday in very positive terms, TASS said Mr. Mondale believed it was possible to improve U.S.-Soviet relations and implied he would do something about it if he became president.

"Some ideas set out by him in this connection, if they were materialised in Washington's policy, would open up certain possibilities for bringing closer the stands of the two powers," TASS said.

Mr. Mondale's ideas, it said, would also open the way "for subsequent agreements on arms reduction and on disarmament, first and foremost in the field of nuclear armaments."

The report said Mr. Gromyko told Mr. Mondale that Moscow was ready to "work to put Soviet-American relations right" if it perceived a similar wish on the part of the United States.

Mr. Mondale said after the meeting that he believed there was an

opportunity for significant progress in U.S.-Soviet relations. He appeared to be referring to Friday's talks between Mr. Gromyko and President Reagan.

According to the TASS report on the Gromyko-Mondale meeting, the Soviet foreign minister reiterated his charges that Washington was entirely responsible for the current strains between Moscow and Washington.

"It followed from Mondale's statements that on his part he believed a turn for the better in relations between the United States and Soviet Union was important and possible in principle," it added.

The positive tone of the TASS report contrasted with the negative attitude of phrasing used to describe Mr. Gromyko's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Wednesday.

TASS delivered a new attack on Mr. Reagan Friday only hours before he was due to meet Mr. Gromyko.

It condemned his remarks in an election speech that U.S. intelligence had been weakened under past administrations as groundless "prattling."

Reagan seeks more funds to protect U.S. embassies

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Thursday asked Congress for more money to protect U.S. embassies after last week's suicide bombing of the American embassy annex in Beirut.

At the same time, the White House denied that Mr. Reagan had singled out former President Jimmy Carter for alleged weakening of intelligence probes against anti-American terrorists in Lebanon.

Mr. Reagan asked Congress to appropriate \$110.2 million immediately to increase the security of overseas missions.

The White House said the funds were sought as part of a request for \$366.2 million for the 1985 financial year, the first instalment of a \$1.5 billion plan to improve embassy security over five years.

The bombing of the embassy annex has become an issue in the presidential election campaign.

It was the third terrorist attack against U.S. facilities in Lebanon in the past 17 months. Altogether the bombings killed more than 260 Americans.

Walter Mondale, Mr. Reagan's Democratic challenger and Mr. Carter's vice-president, has dem-

anded an account of the Reagan administration's alleged failure to protect the Beirut embassy in view of intelligence warnings.

In a speech in Ohio, Mr. Reagan blamed the suicide van-bomb attack last week on the "near destruction" of U.S. intelligence capability before he took office in 1981.

His remarks were widely reported in the press as meaning he blamed Mr. Carter for weakening the role of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) after it was accused in Congress of illegal activities.

A Democratic Senator called on Mr. Reagan to apologise. Senior Democrats also criticised the president, saying the charge "unfair and untrue."

In a brief talk with reporters Thursday, Mr. Reagan complained about "the way you distorted my remarks about the CIA."

He did not elaborate, but Spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Reagan had been speaking in Ohio about a "human intelligence" — meaning agents as compared to electronic spying — "in the decade of the 70s."

Zia rejects open-trial demands for accused plotters

ISLAMABAD (R) — President Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq Thursday rejected demands by lawyers and opposition parties that 56 people accused of plotting to overthrow him receive an open trial, the Pakistan Times said.

The official daily said he told reporters in Lahore that he would not show any leniency. He said the accused were subversive elements who had "tried to involve foreign countries to jeopardise the national security."

A special military court began the trial in Camera at Lahore jail last month, sparking accusations by Pakistan's main opposition alliance that it favoured the prosecution.

The 56 are among 98 people, including two sons of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who were charged

with conspiring to overthrow the military government.

Mr. Bhutto's sons, Murtaza and Shahnawaz, and 40 others are living abroad. They were charged in absentia.

The Pakistan Times quoted Gen. Zia as saying that justice would be done to the accused "but it was up to the government to try them in military courts or civil courts and nobody had the right to object to it."

Pakistani lawyers have been campaigning for the abolition of military courts, whose decisions cannot be challenged before civil courts.

Gen. Zia said military courts had not been unjust during the past seven years under martial law, which he has promised to lift after national elections due by next March.

Nicaraguan leader says Contadora plan will not halt war

MANAGUA (R) — A Nicaraguan leader said Thursday his country's decision to sign a peace plan for Central America would not halt fighting in his country.

"We don't believe that our decision to sign Contadora (peace plan) will stop the war. What could stop the war is the political will of the United States," Commandante Bayardo Arce said.

Arce, who is political coordinator of the Sandinista National Liberation Front which runs Nicaragua, was speaking on the eve of a meeting in Costa Rica of 21 foreign ministers from Western Europe and Latin America who are expected to discuss the peace plan.

The plan is the work of the Contadora Group of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama. Five Central American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua — have said they will sign it although El Salvador has said unspecified revisions will be needed

first.

The plan's basic principles call for gradual removal of U.S., Cuban and Soviet Bloc arms supplies and military advisers from Central America, an end to Nicaraguan support of Salvadoran guerrillas, and an end to U.S. support for rebels in Nicaragua, democratic governments throughout Central America and peaceful resolution of regional disputes.

Arce added: "We believe that the condition to continue its aggression will be very difficult for the United States after the treaty."

The foreign ministers meeting in San Jose brings together Spain, Portugal and the European Community with the four Contadora countries and the five Central American states.

Nicaragua announced last Friday it was prepared to sign a revised draft of the treaty proposed by the Contadora nations two weeks ago. The full text of the treaty has not yet been published.

Blast kills 3 Spanish civil guards

ALEGRIA DE ALAVA, Spain (R) — A bomb believed to have been planted by Basque separatists killed three civil guards and wounded five others here early Friday, police and hospital officials said.

The powerful blast apparently was part of a current campaign of violent protest in the Basque region against France's extradition of three guerrilla suspects to Spain on Wednesday to be tried for murder.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but police said the explosion of the five to eight

kilogrammes of plastic appeared to be the work of the Basque Separatist Group ETA. The three extradited men are alleged to belong to it.

The blast occurred when a civil guard patrol rushed to a railway line at Alegria de Alava from nearby Vitoria in answer to an anonymous telephone warning of a bomb there. One of the men triggered the bomb by stepping on a wire, police said.

One of the five injured guardsmen was reported in serious condition with injuries that could cost him the sight of one eye.

Sources close to ETA have been quoted in Basque media as saying it would retaliate for the extradition of the three men, who are accused of murdering eight policemen and a passerby.

Violent demonstrations began in Spain's Basque region after France announced on Sunday it would send the three back.

Police reported sporadic protests for a fifth successive night Thursday. Youths fought police in Pamplona and San Sebastian while French and Spanish flags were burned in Bilbao.

Cosmonauts to return 'in a few days'

MOSCOW (R) — Three Soviet cosmonauts who have been in space for a record 234 days aboard the Salyut-7 orbital station will return to earth "in the next few days," TASS News Agency reported Friday.

It said Leonid Kizim, Vladimir Solovyov and Oleg Atkov were

completing experiments and "preparing the station for a flight on automatic regime."

"In the next few days the crew are to conserve scientific equipment, units and systems of the station," TASS said, adding that the equipment would be stored in the Soyuz T-11 descent module.

The crew blasted into orbit on

Feb. 8 and broke the space endurance record of 211 days on Sept. 6. They have been visited by two other crews and received supplies in unmanned cargo craft.

Pravda said on Wednesday that the crew were practising putting on space suits ready for the return journey but gave no date.

Five killed during Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (R) — At least five people were killed and hundreds injured throughout Bangladesh Thursday during a national strike called by political groups opposed to the military government, politicians and hospital officials said.

In Chittagong, the country's second-largest city, witnesses said at least one person died and several others were injured when police opened fire to restore order.

Leaders of 22 political groups said they would not take part in parliamentary elections on Dec. 8 unless President Hossain Muhammad Ershad first lifted martial law and set up an interim government.

They also announced plans for a national opposition demonstration in Dhaka on Oct. 14 to back their demands.

The military government later issued a statement appealing for calm. It said the situation had returned to normal.

In the southern town of Noakhali, 29 people were injured in clashes between rival political factions, residents said.

Dhaka police said hundreds of people were injured when demonstrators fought with knives, wooden staves, hockey sticks and stones.

More than 400 people were arrested in the violence which broke out shortly after the strike began, they said.

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CIA chief calls for anti-terrorist sanctions

LOS ANGELES (R) — The director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) William Casey, has called on Western nations to take legal and economic sanctions against countries harbouring terrorist groups.

"Terrorism is a new weapons system that seeks to destroy the boundaries between war and peace," Mr. Casey said in a speech Thursday night, a week after 23 people were killed in a bomb explosion at the U.S. embassy annex in Beirut.

He said there were international terrorist organisations in Iran, North Korea, Bulgaria and Libya. "These are areas in which the Soviet presence is no secret," Mr. Casey told a meeting of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, an independent civic

organisation.

Western nations needed to work together to halt the spread of terrorism by taking legal and economic sanctions against countries which harbour terrorist groups, he said.

He said much of the money pumped into the drug trade went directly to support terrorist activities.

Meanwhile a senior CIA analyst resigned because Mr. Casey insisted he must revise a report on Mexico to support Washington's policy, according to press reports Friday.

The New York Times and the Washington Post both said analyst John Horton confirmed that he left the CIA in May after the disagreement.

The Times said the intelligence

report was on Mexico. The Post identified it only as a major Latin American nation.

The Times quoted intelligence officials as saying Mr. Casey wanted the report to portray Mexico's economic and political problems as a threat to its internal stability and an indirect danger to the security of Central America and the United States.

The officials said that when Mr. Horton refused to revise the report on the grounds that intelligence data did not support such an alarmist conclusion, Mr. Casey had it rewritten by another analyst, the Times reported.

"There is pressure from Casey on subjects that are politically sensitive to jigger estimates to conform with policy," Mr. Horton was quoted as saying.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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PSYCHING OUT AN EXPERT

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column. East-West vulnerable. Last deals.

NORTH
♠ 8432
♥ 7654
♦ 952
♣ K2

WEST
♠ AKQ5
♥ KJ
♦ KJ3
♣ 10983

EAST
♠ J109
♥ AQ1032
♦ AQ1064
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ 76
♥ 98
♦ 87
♣ AQJ7654

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Dble Pass
Pass 1NT Dble 2 ♠
Dble Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠.

One of the great characters of bridge was the late Cornelius "Bob" Slavenburg of Holland. A hulking man of over six feet, he was a tennis player of international class, a raconteur par excellence, a man who would gamble on anything and a great success with the ladies. He was one of the fastest analysts at the

bridge table that we have ever seen. In 1966, he and his partner, Hans Kreyns, won the World Open Pairs Championship. This hand, from his country's 1948 European Championship match against France, will linger in our memories.

With the vulnerability in his favor, Slavenburg decided to muddy the waters with some psychic bidding. When his one spade overall was doubled, he retreated to one no trump. It was his intention to back into clubs after the opponents doubled one no trump, but North came to the "rescue" with two spades. Now Slavenburg feared that, if he corrected to clubs, his partner would again return to spades, so he decided to take his medicine in two spades doubled.

West reasoned that it would be wise to cut down on declarer's ruffing power, so he started off with the king, queen and ace of trumps. He was rather surprised to find that he had brought forth the J-10-9 from partner.

All would still have been well had West now shifted to a red suit. But, for some reason known only to himself, he was reluctant to lead from either red tenace, so he chose a "safe" exit of the ten of clubs.

Declarer won in dummy with the king, used the eight of spades to draw West's last trump, and then ran six more club tricks to make two spades doubled. Not a bad result, especially when you consider that the opponents can make a vulnerable grand slam in any one of three suits, including spades!